4
Izumi Tsubaki
MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN

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MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN 4

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[ISSUE 31]

HRMM...
OH?
IT'S WEIRD TO SEE YOU HAVE TROUBLE WORKING ON YOUR MANGA, NOZAKI-KUN.
WELL... NO MATTER WHAT I DO, MY CLIMACTIC SCENES JUST SEEM BORING...
I WANT TO GIVE THEM MORE OOMPH.
I...
SUZUKI-KUN...
...WILL PROTECT YOU!
HUH?
REALLY? SUZUKI-KUN'S PRETTY COOL HERE, IF YOU ASK ME...
NO, NO. I DON'T MEAN THE EXPRESSIONS OR THE LINES. I WANT SCENES THAT REALLY, YOU KNOW... SCREAM, "THIS IS THE CLIMAX!!"...
LIKE, MAYBE IF I COULD SKILLFULLY MANIPULATE THE EVERY-DAY INTO SOMETHING DRAMATIC ...
EVERYDAY, HUH...?
CAN I HAVE AN EXAMPLE ?
SOME-THING LIKE THIS, I GUESS?
NOTHING ABOUT THIS IS "EVERY-DAY"!!!

PROPS

A PROP?
?
HMM.
MAYBE I SHOULD USE SOME SORT OF STRIKING PROP...?

OOH YEAH, THE TENSION RAMPS RIGHT UP WITH THAT!!
BA (WHAP)
I...! I WON'T LET YOU HAVE SUZUKI-KUN...!!

TH..... THAT'S A PROP ...?
I'LL HOLD IT UP ...!
HURRY !!!
POWER

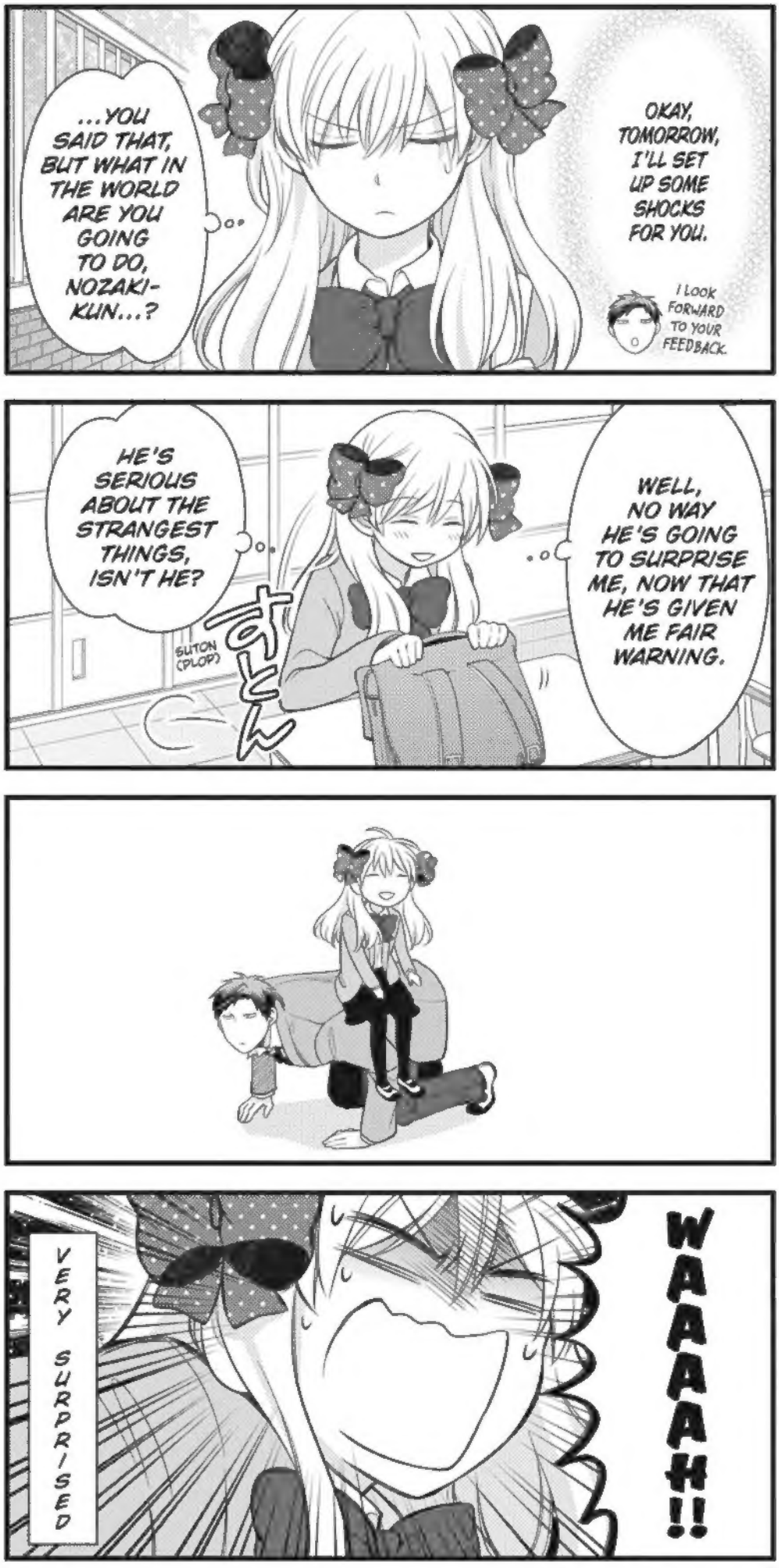
PROPS !!??
YOU'RE SUCH AN AMAZING GIRL!
GOO!
DO-MES-TICITY
WAH!
AAAH!

SHOCK AND SURPRISE

WHAT SHE WANTED

AFTER THE SURPRISE, YOU WERE SHOCKED, LIKE, "HUH? WHAT THE HELL IS SHE DOING!?" RIGHT?
HEH HEH HEH...
THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF SHOCK I WAS LOOKING FOR.....

FOR YOU.
MIDSUMMER GIFT
From the Editorial Department of Monthly Girls' Romance
OKAY, I WASN'T EXPECTING THIS, BUT THAT'S NOT IT!!!


...YOU SAID THAT, BUT WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU GOING TO DO, NOZAKI-KUN...?
OKAY, TOMORROW, I'LL SET UP SOME SHOCKS FOR YOU.
I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR FEEDBACK.
HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT THE STRANGEST THINGS, ISN'T HE?
SUTON (PLOP)
すとん
WELL, NO WAY HE'S GOING TO SURPRISE ME, NOW THAT HE'S GIVEN ME FAIR WARNING.
WAAAH!!
VERY SURPRISED

YOU'VE BEEN WARNED

I JUST THOUGHT I WOULD SURPRISE YOU A LITTLE.
SHAKA (SCRABBLE)
しゃか
しゃか
しゃか
WH-WH-WH—!
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU DOING, NOZAKI-KUN!!!?

WHOA!!
AND...
...NOW FOR THE THE MAIN EVENT.
PON (POP)
ぽん

THANK YOU!!
FOR ME!?
WOOOW!! SOOOO PRETTY!!!
KYAAA

!!?
SUPO (POP)
ス
ポッ

GOTTA TAKE IT ALL TO THE STAFF ROOM.
C'MON. GIVE IT HERE.
YEAH.
HUH?
SA-KURA.
CARRYING STUFF?

ARGH, YOU'RE JUST SO COOL!!
ドキ DOKI
ドキ DOKI
THAT'S IT, NOZAKI-KUN!! LITTLE SURPRISES LIKE THAT ARE PERFECT!!
ドキ DOKI (BADUM)
すた SUTA (STRIDE)
すた SUTA
すた SUTA

UGH! YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO!!!
GRAB SOME!!! LET'S GO TOGETHER!!!
KSHEE!
KSHEE!
CRAP!!! IF I CARRY EVERYTHING, I CAN'T DO MY STAFF ROOM SURPRISE !!!

"A SMILE AT THE UNEXPECTED TURN OF EVENTS AFTER THE SURPRISE."

THIS ONE'S GOT EGG UNDER-NEATH.
OH YEAH! I'M EATING LUNCH WITH NOZAKI-KUN RIGHT NOW ...!!
ACK!
WHAT'S MORE, NOZAKI-KUN MADE THIS HIMSELF ...!!
JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO, I COULD NEVER EVEN HAVE DREAMED OF SOMETHING LIKE THIS...
NOZAKI-KUN IS RIGHT HERE BESIDE ME, AND HE'S EVEN GOT DESSERT ...!!
NOZAKI-KUN IS RIGHT HERE BESIDE ME, WITH SECONDS AT THE READY ...!!
NOZAKI-KUN IS RIGHT HERE BESIDE ME, POURING ME TEA ...!!
DON (THUD)
AUGH, C'MON, SAKURA, YOU GOTTA TRY HARDER ...!!!

!?
BIKU (JUMP)
PAAAAAN (POP)

NO-ZAKI ...
...YOU'RE NOT IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ANYMORE, SO YOU CAN'T BE DOING THAT STUFF...
IT'S JUST GONNA BLOW UP IN YOUR FACE.
DOING WHAT?
?
THAT GIRL FROM CLASS A!!
YOU WERE TOTALLY PICKING ON HER JUST NOW!!

JUST SO YOU KNOW, WE BOTH AGREED TO THIS, OKAY?
?
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
WHAT SORT OF KINK ARE YOU TWO INTO!!!?

ACTUALLY, I'M PRETTY MUCH OUT OF IDEAS AT THIS POINT, SO IF YOU CAN THINK OF ANYTHING, PLEASE SHARE.
SAKURA'S GONNA GET SICK OF ME.
SHE'S THE ONE RUNNING THE SHOW !!?

SA-KURA.
CAN I JOIN YOU ON YOUR WAY HOME?
I'M GOING TO THE STATION TODAY TOO.
HUH !?
OH! SURE !!!
HE'S GONNA KEEP RUNNING WITH IT AFTER SCHOOL TOO...!!

WELL, THIS IS ME.
HUH !?
WHY !!?
WHAT ABOUT THE PRANK!!?
?
?
...

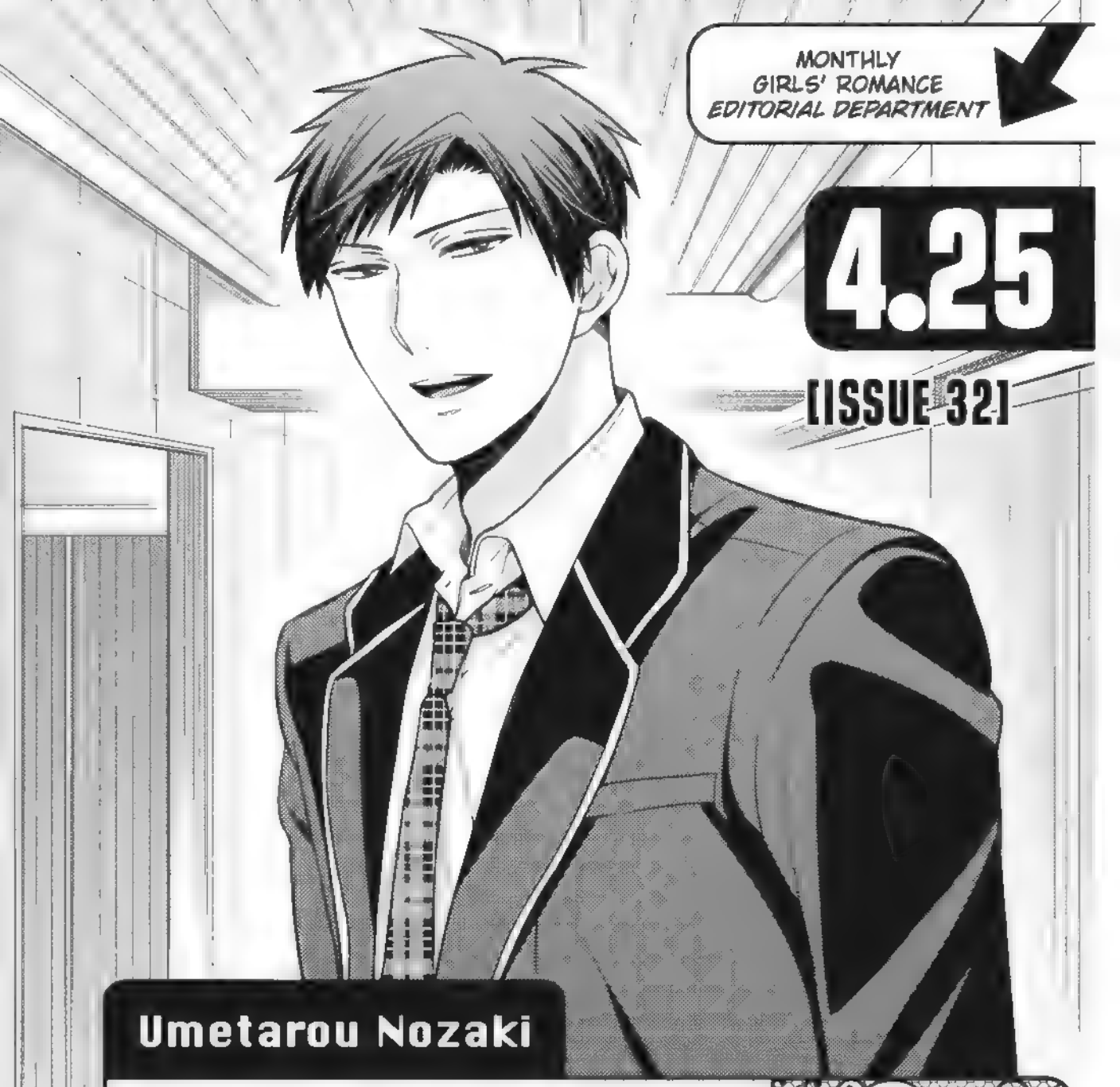
I JUST WANTED TO WALK WITH YOU.
"WHY" WHAT ...?
?

DOSA (WHUMP)

THE MOMENT WITH THE BIGGEST REACTION

...SO THIS TIME, I TRIED DOING MY DRAFT WITH THE REACTIONS OF A REAL LIVE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL AS REFERENCE.
IT'S A DRAMATIC SCENE WITH A UNIQUE PROP!!!
SOME REALITY. THAT'S GOOD.
RIGHT, LET'S HAVE A LOOK...
NO WAY ...!
(GAAAAAAAN (SHOOOOOK)
JUST RICE ...!!?
IT'S ONLY RICE ...!!?
M-MM.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY PUSHING IT ASIDE?
HA (GASP)
HEH ...!
IT'S —!!!
CURRY!!!
YOU HID CURRY UNDER IT, SUZUKI-KUN!!!
THIS...
...IS MORE LIKE A FOOD MANGA.

PANIC☆TRICK
I DOCTORED THIS UP FROM A CLASS PHOTO...
OHH.
?
SO WHAT SORT OF PRANK WERE YOU PLANNING TO PLAY ON ME IN THE STAFF ROOM?
KOTO (TOK) コト...
LOVE
...AND WAS GONNA PUT IT ON SENSEI'S DESK...
I KNOW IT'S A FAKE, BUT THAT'S STILL PRETTY SHOCKING!!
HURRY UP AND PUT IT AWAY!!!



Let's Fall in Love♡
is really interesting!
What do you think?

I'M ON THE FENCE...
PUT IN MORE TANUKI!

E-MAIL US!

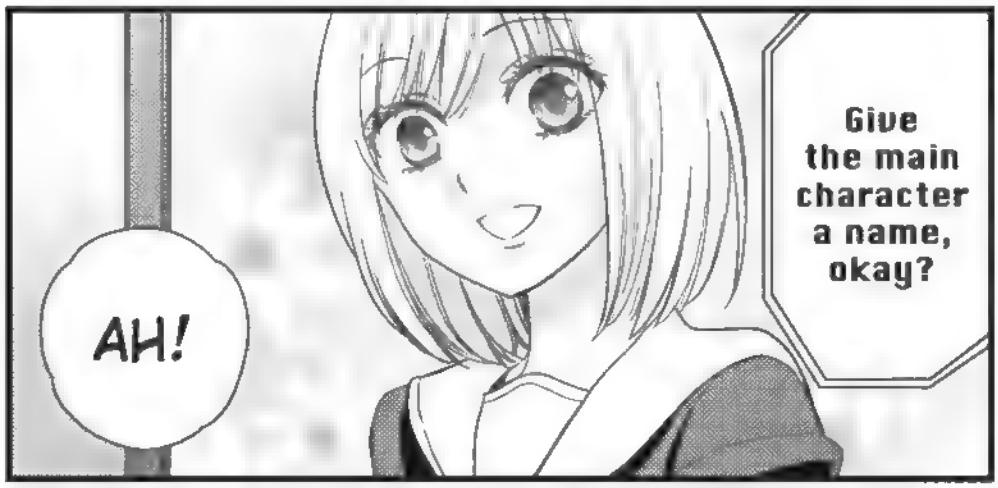
KEN-SAN BROUGHT UP SOMETHING PERSONAL ...!!!
DOKI (BADUM)
OH, YUMENO-SAN, ARE YOU FAMILIAR WITH THE GAME SECRET DAYS?
THIS IS...

I'M SO FREAKING EXCITED TO PLAY IT, I CAN'T EVEN!!!
ACTUALLY, I'VE WANTED TO PLAY IT FOR A WHILE NOW, SO I'M PLANNING TO GO OUT AND GET IT ON MY NEXT DAY OFF!!!
I'VE TOTALLY BEEN KEEPING TABS ON IT TOO!!!
I'VE NEVER PLAYED IT, BUT I KNOW ALL ABOUT IT!!!
YOU BET!!! I KNOW IT REALLY WELL !!!
...THE PART WHERE I HAVE TO JUMP RIGHT IN!!!

HUH!?
...JUST DON'T GET GAMES LIKE THIS.
I...
GOSO (DIG)
GOSO
WELL, I GOT THIS AS A SAMPLE. YOU CAN HAVE IT.
...I SEE...

HERE.
GET ALL THE GUYS!

I'M IN!
SOUNDS FUN!
THREE GUYS PLAYING THAT...?
WE'RE DONE FOR THE DAY, AFTER ALL.
SECRET DAYS♥
WELL, ANYWAY, SINCE I HAVE IT AND ALL, YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A PLAY?


AH!
Give the main character a name, okay?

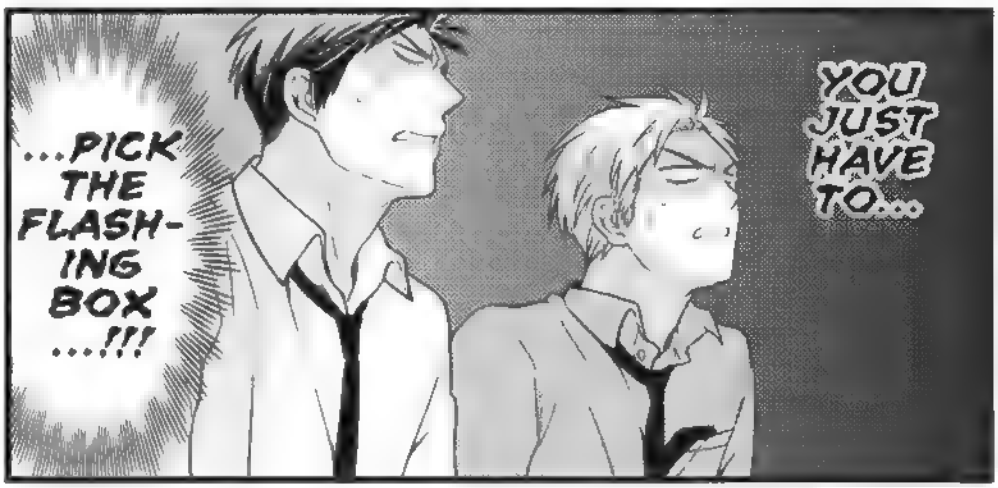
IT'S KINDA WEIRD JUST WATCHING HER WHILE SHE GETS WITH THE GUYS.
PIKO (BOOP)
ピコ
IT'S HARD TO BE ALL "GO FOR IT!"...
OOOH!
SHE'S KINDA CUTE, ISN'T SHE?
THE MAIN GIRL.

I HOPE YOU CAN FIND A BOYFRIEND, UMEKO-SAN!!!
GO FOR IT, UMEKO!!
PI (BEEP)
ピ
Umeko Nozaki

LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN SET THE DIFFICULTY. WHAT SHOULD WE GO WITH?
THE DIFFICULTY, HUH ...?
THEY MIGHT ASK QUESTIONS GUYS WOULDN'T GET AND STUFF.
THEN LET'S GO WITH "EASY."

Hey there! I haven't seen you around before. What's your name?
IGNORE HIM.
TELL HIM YOUR NAME.
PIKA (FLASH)
PIKA
PIKA
OH!
THE LEFT ONE'S REALLY FLASHING!!!

THERE!
PI (BEEP)
TELL HIM YOUR NAME.
PINPOOON (DING-DONG)
THAT'S RIGHT! ☆


YOU JUST HAVE TO...
...PICK THE FLASHING BOX ...!!!

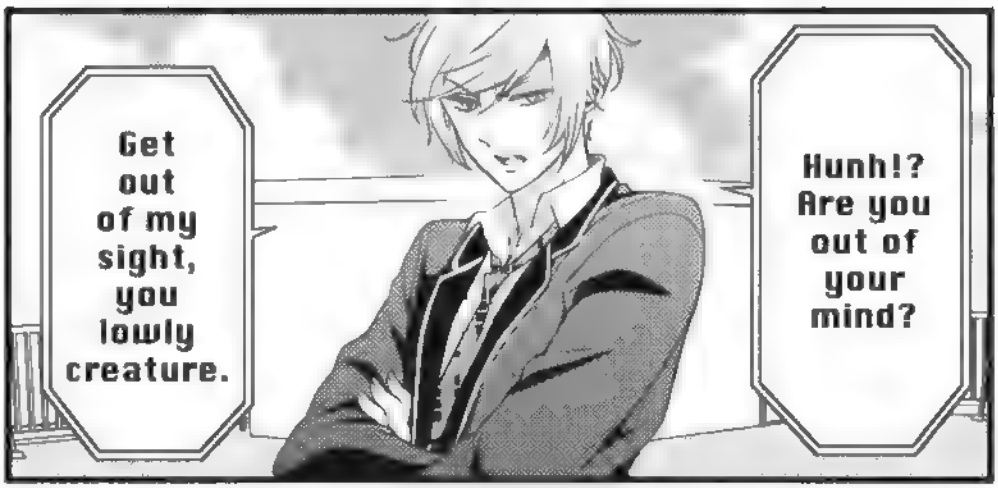
ピンポーン
PINPOOON
I HOPE OKADA-KUN SAYS SORRY.
That bastard Okada!! I'll never forgive him!!!
Ichinose
That bastard Okada!!
ピンポーン
PINPOOON
I'M ON YOUR SIDE, NO MATTER WHAT, OKADA-KUN!!
Ichinose, huh...? I have no idea what that idiot's thinking.
Okada
Ichinose, huh...? I have no
ピンポーン
PINPOOON
THOSE TWO ARE SUCH A PAIN!! LET'S GET SOMETHING TO EAT TO TAKE OUR MINDS OFF IT!!
Ichinose and Okada are fighting, you know...
Kujou
Ichinose and Okada are
HEKO (BOW)
HEKO
AT THIS POINT, SHE'S JUST A CLOWN, HUH...?
YESSIREE! HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD, Y'DID!!!
WEIRD... THEIR APPROVAL OF UMEKO'S GOING UP, BUT MINE'S AT AN ALL-TIME LOW...

Oh? You have some-thing in your hair.
Nakamura
Oh?
WHAAAT?
BUT IT JUST DOESN'T HAVE ANY REALISM.
YOU KNOW, BETWEEN THE VOICES AND THE NICE ART, THIS IS PRETTY AMAZING.
THIS GAME.

ZUI (ZOOM)
See?
Nakamura
See?

THAT'S AMAZING!!! I LOVE IT!!!
KYA! KYA!
SO YOU GET A CLOSE-UP OF THEIR FACES WHEN THEY GET NEAR YOU!
WHOOOA!

WELL ...
WE JUST COULDN'T HELP IT...
...WHY ARE YOU TWO BACK THERE...?
UH...
?


Get out of my sight, you lowly creature.
Hunh!? Are you out of your mind?

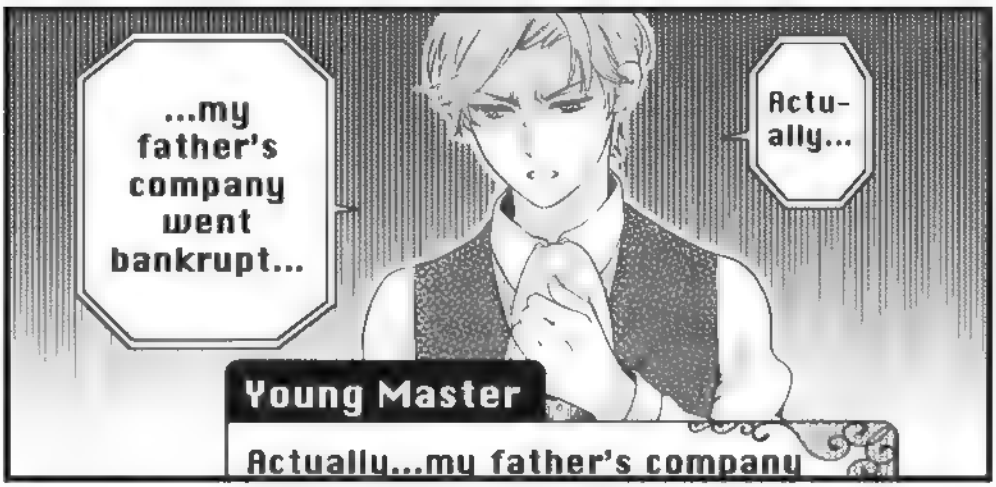
COME TO THINK OF IT, SUZUKI-KUN ISN'T PRICKLY AT ALL, IS HE?
"TSUN-DERE"... RIGHT?
IT'S, YOU KNOW?
...THIS IS STRESSING ME OUT. DO GIRLS REALLY LIKE THIS SORT OF GUY...?

PRICKLY, THEN LOVEY-DOVEY... PRICKLY, THEN LOVEY-DOVEY...
TSUNDERE, HUH.....? IF STUFF LIKE THAT'S POPULAR WITH GIRLS, IT MIGHT BE A GOOD IDEA FOR ME TO THROW IT INTO THE MIX.

HE'S A REALLY UNSTABLE GUY.
JUUUST KIDDING !!!
I DON'T LIKE YOU OR ANY-THING ...
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I LOVE YOU!!
KURU (WHIRL)
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE ...

TCH!
PEASANTS!!!
SNAG HIM AND THEN GET HIM TO TAKE YOU OUT FOR A DELICIOUS MEAL, UMEKO!!!
FINE, THAT SETTLES IT!!!
THAT HE'S RICH, I GUESS?
WHAT'S CHARMING ABOUT THIS GUY?

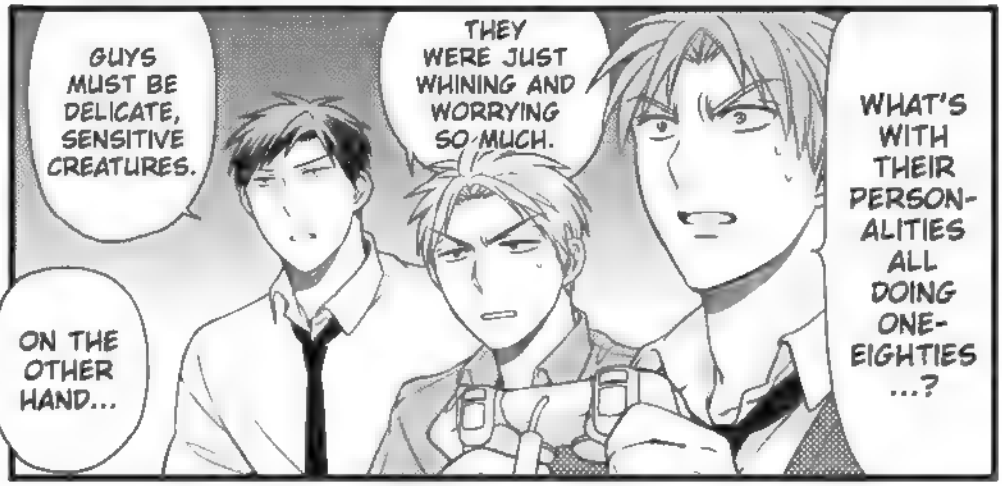
ONWARD! TO THE RICH BOY ROUTE!!!
ALL RIGHT! TIME FOR SOME GOLD-DIGGING!!!
HE'S SO LACKING IN EVERY OTHER WAY, IT'S SHOCKING, ISN'T IT?
ONCE WE'RE HITCHED, IT'S IN THE BAG!
DI (BEEP)

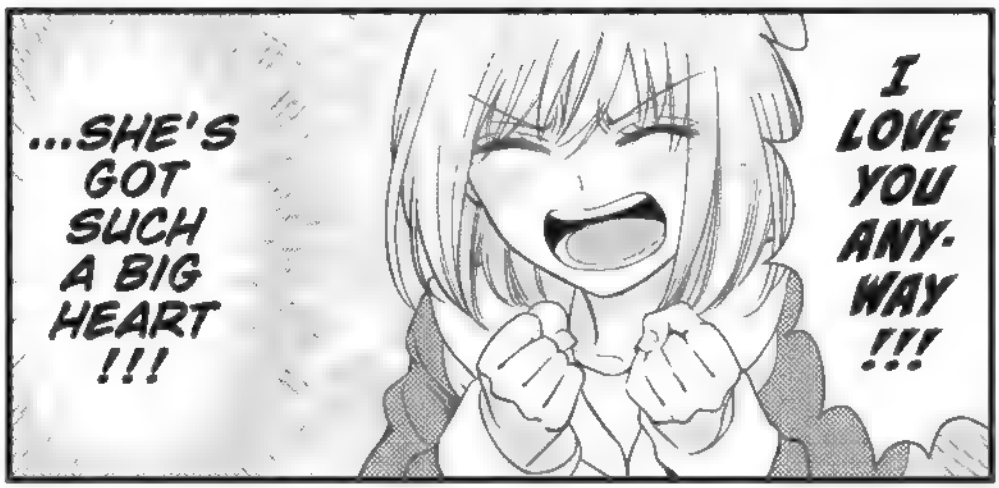

...my father's company went bankrupt...
Actu-ally...
Young Master
Actually...my father's company

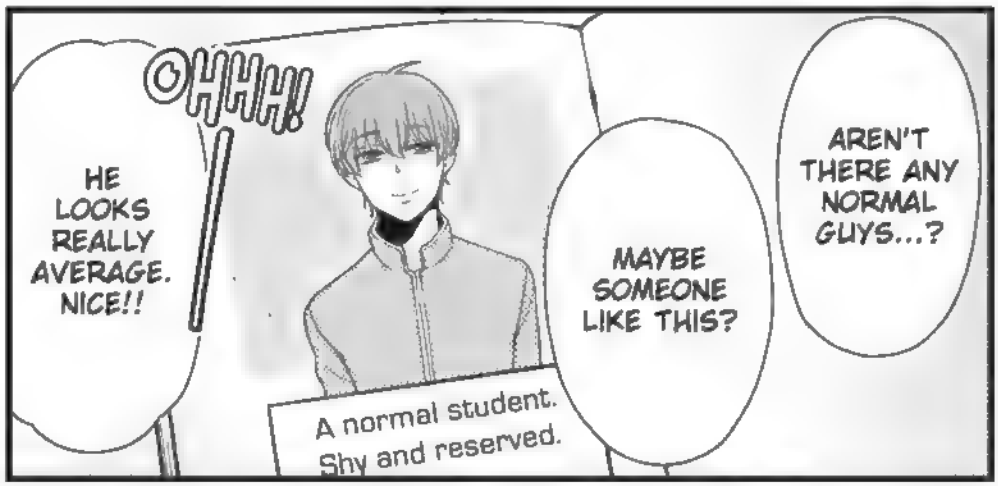
I HAVE TO BE THERE FOR HIM ...!!!
I'M WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
THIS GUY'S HOPELESS... IS HE ACTUALLY GONNA BE ABLE TO SURVIVE ...?

Tch! You saw me, so now I can't let you get away !!!
Ha-ha... That's because people say I seem weak...

You're mine now... I won't let you leave ...!!
Aww, c'mon. Tell your senpai what's wrong.


GUYS MUST BE DELICATE, SENSITIVE CREATURES.
THEY WERE JUST WHINING AND WORRYING SO MUCH.
WHAT'S WITH THEIR PERSONALITIES ALL DOING ONE-EIGHTIES ...?
ON THE OTHER HAND...

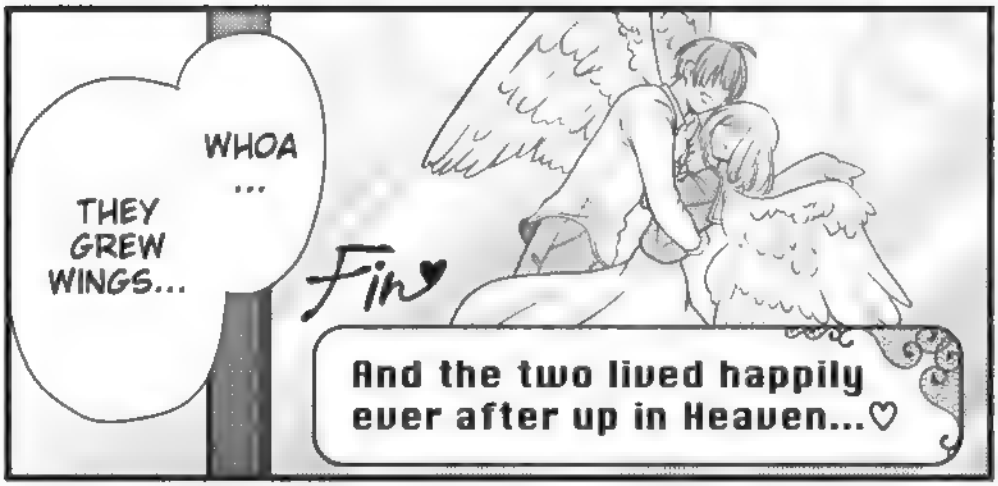

...SHE'S GOT SUCH A BIG HEART !!!
I LOVE YOU ANY-WAY !!!


AREN'T THERE ANY NORMAL GUYS...?
MAYBE SOMEONE LIKE THIS?
OHHH!
HE LOOKS REALLY AVERAGE. NICE!!
A normal student. Shy and reserved.

To be honest, I've never told anyone this...
...but I...
OOH!
A CONFESSION OF LOVE!!?
IT'S REFRESHING IN ITS NORMALNESS!!!
GO FOR IT!!!

WAH HA HA HA HA HA!
...AM SATAN...!!!
WHAAAAAAAAA—!!?

IS IT REALLY YOU, SATAN...!? THE LOVE OF MY PAST LIFE...!?
YOU'RE REALLY UP FOR ANYTHING, AREN'T YOU!!!?
Umeko


WHOA ...
THEY GREW WINGS...
Fin♥
And the two lived happily ever after up in Heaven...♡

AND SHE DID FIND THE BOYFRIEND SHE WANTED SO BAD ...
YEAH... I GUESS AS LONG AS UMEKO'S HAPPY, IT'S FINE...
IT WAS KINDA... INTERESTING BECAUSE IT WAS SO UNPREDICT-ABLE...

HE LOOKS LIKE A TOTAL STALK-ER...
NO, NO.
I BET HE'S A MOMMA'S BOY.
THIS ONE'S GOT ME CURIOUS!!
M-MAYBE WE SHOULD CHECK OUT THE OTHER GUYS TOO ...?

YOU REALLY DO LOVE THAT GAME, DON'T YOU?
THAT LAST SCENE WAS SO MOVING!!!
SECRET DAYS
IT WAS ALL 'COS OF THE CHERRY BLOS-SOMS!!!

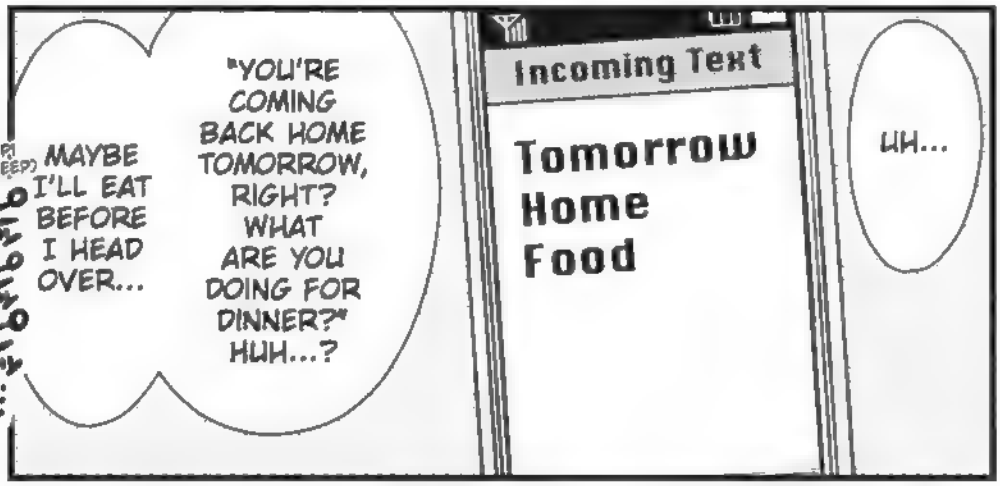
AFTEREFFECTS OF THE GAME

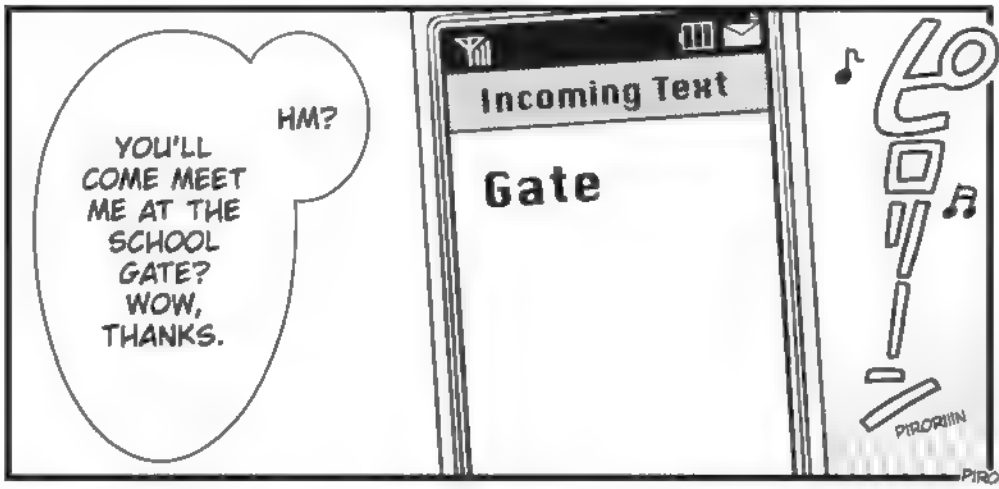
I'VE HEARD OF 'EM, BUT I'VE NEVER PLAYED ONE BEFORE ...
AN OTOME GAME, HUH ...?
HERE.
OH YEAH. YOU WANNA GIVE THIS A GO TOO, MIKO-SHIBA?
IF YOU'RE GONNA COME ON STRONG, YOU GOTTA GO ALL THE WAY!!!
YOU'VE GOT SOME BALLS CALLING YOURSELF A YANDERE!!!
NOW YOU EASE UP!!!?
Sorry.. for cornering you like that. I'm such an idiot...
HEY, HOLD UP!
ISN'T THIS WAY TOO EASY?
UGH!
A VISUAL NOVEL ?
GUESS I'LL GO AFTER ANOTHER GUY AT THE SAME TIME.
THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I THOUGHT MIKO-SHIBA WAS COOL.
GOT THE HAREM ENDING, BABY!!!
I HAD ALL THE GUYS AT MY FEET, YOU KNOW?

SECRET DAYS
SECOND INSTALLMENT IN A NEW OTOME GAME FRANCHISE. MADE WITH A REALIST.C, SWEET STORY IN MIND, BUT PEOPLE STARTED TO FEAR THE MAIN WRITER AFTER, SAYING, "WHEN HE'S INVOLVED, SOMEONE ALWAYS ENDS UP FLYING THROUGH THE AIR." HAS SOME HARDCORE FANS.

[ISSUE 33]

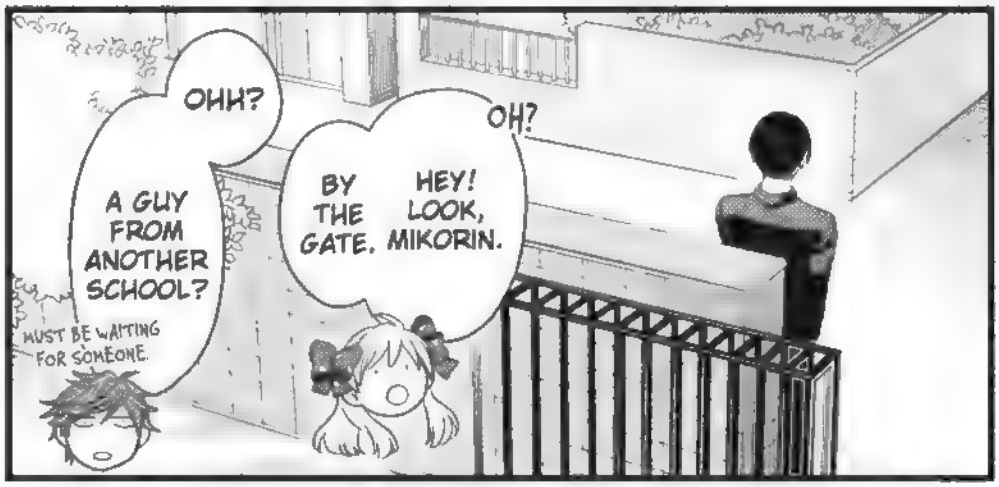
YEAH.
LOOKS LIKE IT'S FROM MY LITTLE BROTHER.
A TEXT?
OH.
PIRORIIN (JINGLE)


PI (BEEP) MAYBE I'LL EAT BEFORE I HEAD OVER...
"YOU'RE COMING BACK HOME TOMORROW, RIGHT? WHAT ARE YOU DOING FOR DINNER?" HUH...?
Incoming Text
Tomorrow
Home
Food
UH...


YOU'LL COME MEET ME AT THE SCHOOL GATE? WOW, THANKS.
HM?
Incoming Text
Gate
PIRORIIN
PIRORIIN

HOW THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT !!!?
NO WAY !!?
HEY! DON'T GET DAD TOO WORKED UP WITH YOUR TEASING...
HA HA HA !!!
Incoming Text
Dad

A REGULAR OCCURRENCE



I BET IF NOZAKI CAUGHT SIGHT OF THIS DUDE, HE'D LOSE IT AND RUN AFTER HIM.
FOR REFERENCE!!!
A GAKURAN, HUH...?
YEAH.
SO FRESH!!!
NOZAKI-KUN'D BE ECSTATIC IF HE SAW THAT...
YEAH, PROBABLY!
A GAKURAN, HUH...?

AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A GAKURAN !!?
WH-WHAT'S WITH YOU GUYS!!!?
HFF!
HAAH!
JUST MAKE DO WITH THAT!!!
IF YOU WANT A GAKURAN, THEN LOOK NO FURTHER!! MIKORIN'LL PUT ONE ON FOR YOU!!
HFF!
HAAH!
WHAT KINDA DUMBASS WOULD ACTUALLY GO RUSHING OUT THERE!?!?
STOP IT, NOZAKI !!!

MAYU.
PEKO (NOD)
ペコ
THIS IS MY LITTLE BROTHER.
OHHH! OKAY!! WELL, THEN...
HE DOESN'T TALK MUCH, BUT IF YOU SAY SOMETHING TO HIM, YOU'LL GET A RESPONSE ...
OH. HELLO.
H-HELLO!!
WHY FROM YOU !!?
... FROM ME.

DON'T YOU IGNORE ME!
C'MON, SAY SOMETHIIING!
WELL, THAT WAS A JOKE JUST NOW, BUT HE REALLY DIDN'T TALK BEFORE, SO HE GOT PICKED ON ALL THE TIME...

IF IT'S TOO MUCH, I'LL PROTECT YOU.
.....
THEY'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
YOU CAN'T JUST LET THEM DO WHATEVER THEY WANT 'COS YOU CAN'T BE BOTHERED TO DEAL WITH THEM.

... THAT'S JUST HOW IT WENT.
..... AND, WELL ...
CHOKO
ちょこ
CHOKO (TROT)
ちょこ

IS THAT REALLY THE SAME STORY YOU STARTED WITH!!?
HUH !!?
IT WASN'T GONNA END ON A FEEL-GOOD NOTE!?
THAT'S MY KID BROTHER FOR YOU.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY. HE JUST CAN'T BE BOTHERED WITH ANYTHING.

SKETCH BOOK
IF YOU DON'T LIKE TALKING, THEN WHY NOT TRY WRITING INSTEAD?
OH!

SA (SHIP)
YA
NICE TO MEET YOU!
WELL, I'M CHIYO SAKURA.
OH NO!!! WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANYWHERE LIKE THIS!

YAMS
SA
... OKAY! SO... WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO EAT?

I DON'T THINK HE EVEN REALLY LIKES YAMS!!!
YAMS
NO-ZAKI-KUN!
THIS KID IS TOTALLY LAZY!!!
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU.

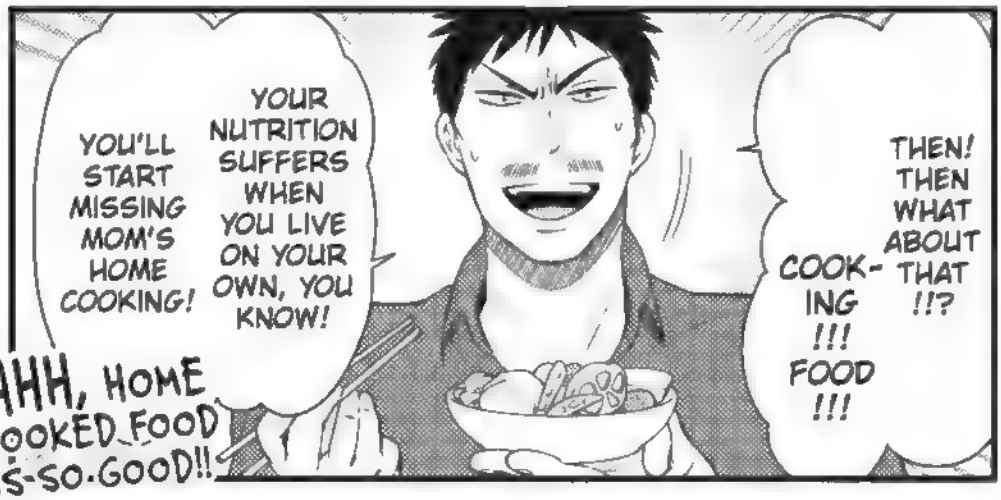
WEIGHING THE OPTIONS

SO, ANYWAY, WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE TODAY?
KYU (SQUEAK)
きゅっ
NII-SAN
きゅっ
KYU
.....
NII-SAN, WHO LIVES ON HIS OWN, SAID HE WAS COMING BACK HOME, SO I CAME TO GET HIM.
WRITING IT ALL OUT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH OF A PAIN, HUH!!!?

OHH? SO YOU'RE GOING BACK HOME RIGHT NOW?
YEAH.
I'M SURPRISED THEY LET YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN IN THE FIRST PLACE.
OH. THAT'S ...
YOU WANT TO LIVE BY YOURSELF ...!?
YOU'RE JUST GOING TO GO FOOL AROUND!
IF YOU HAVE A REAL REASON, THEN SPIT IT OUT!!!
IT'S FOR WORK...
LESS TIME GETTING TO AND FROM SCHOOL
AN APARTMENT CLOSER TO SCHOOL
MORE TIME TO SLEEP
...AND MY HEALTH.
IT WASN'T JUST A REAL REASON, IT WAS A COMPEL-LING ONE.
THAT'S NOT SOME-THING A HIGH SCHOOLER WOULD SAY...

WELL ... BUT ...
...LIVING ON YOUR OWN IN HIGH SCHOOL ...
OH YEAH!
THERE'S ALSO THE ISSUE OF MONEY.
YOU SHOULD THINK A BIT MORE ...

I HAVE ALL MY LIVING EXPENSES RIGHT HERE.
PUBLISHED IN...
...A MONTHLY MAGAZINE
UGH ...!


THEN! THEN WHAT ABOUT THAT !!?
COOK-ING !!! FOOD !!!
YOUR NUTRITION SUFFERS WHEN YOU LIVE ON YOUR OWN, YOU KNOW!
YOU'LL START MISSING MOM'S HOME COOKING!
AHH, HOME COOKED FOOD IS-SO-GOOD!!

UMETAROU MADE THAT, YOU KNOW.
MOGU (MUNCH)
MOGU
GIRI (GRIND)
DAMMIT! HE'S IN-VINCIBLE ...!!!

I TOOK EVERYONE OUT FOR BARBECUE WITH MY PRIZE MONEY.
WHEN DID THAT START ...!!!?
I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE DRAWING MANGA IN THE FIRST PLACE!!

AND DO YOUR BEST TO SHUT ME UP!!!
FINE, JUST SHOW ME THIS MANGA OF YOURS!!!
ARGH!!!

I LOVE YOU...!!

SUZUKI-KUN...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? JUST LOOKING AT HIM...
...MAKES MY CHEST BURN UP...

DOES SHE SHOOT A BEAM FROM HER CHEST?
?
NAH.
THERE AREN'T ANY SPECIAL MOVES OR ANY-THING.

SUZUKI-KUN...
I WILL DEFINITELY CATCH UP TO YOU ONE DAY ...!!!

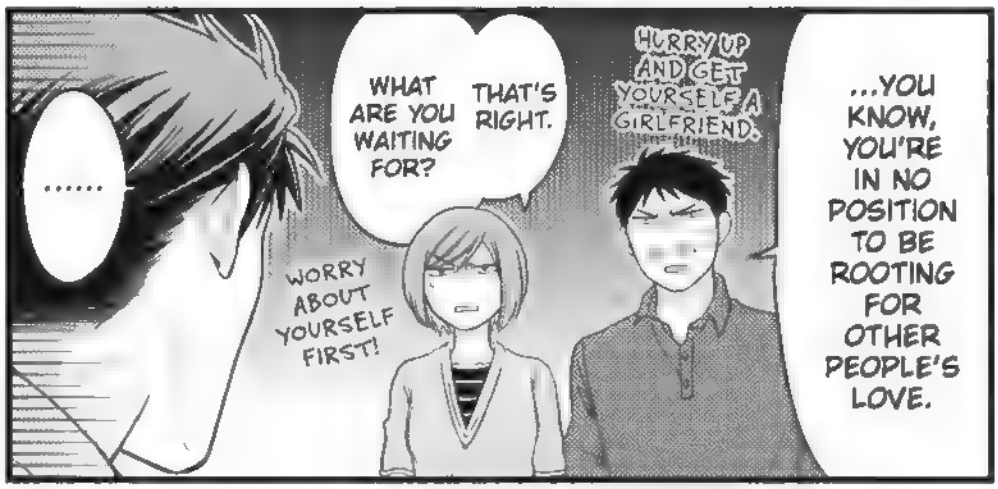
...CAN MAMIKO WIN AGAINST SUZUKI IN THE END? SO...
? ?
THERE AREN'T ANY BATTLES EITHER.

MAGAZINE. MONTHLY GIRLS' ROMANCE

.....
DAD.
WHY NOT JUST STOP THE MONTHLY SERIAL?
I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND IT ALL, BUT DO YOU REALLY NEED TO WEAR YOURSELF OUT DRAWING THIS STUFF ...?

...I HAVE TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY FOR THAT AND MAKE MY HEROINE GROW.
NOW THAT I'VE STARTED GETTING SERIAL-IZED...
I'M A PROFESSIONAL MANGA-KA.

UME-TAROU ...
IT'S MY DUTY TO DRAW THEIR LOVE STORY.


.....
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
THAT'S RIGHT.
HURRY UP AND GET YOURSELF A GIRLFRIEND.
WORRY ABOUT YOURSELF FIRST!
...YOU KNOW, YOU'RE IN NO POSITION TO BE ROOTING FOR OTHER PEOPLE'S LOVE.

...SO, AFTER THAT, HE SOMEHOW MANAGED TO START LIVING ON HIS OWN.
BOY...
...YOU HAD A PRETTY ROUGH TIME OF IT, DIDN'T YOU, NOZAKI-KUN?
YEAH.
IT WAS TOUGH.

WERE YOU ON HIS SIDE?
NO...
...I WAS AGAINST IT AT FIRST...
'COS HE WAS MOVING FAR AWAY.

BUT IN THE END, YOU DECIDED TO WISH HIM WELL, HUH?
YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR BROTHER!!!
WAY TO GO, LITTLE BRO!!!
YEAH.
YOU CONSID-ERED YOUR BROTHER'S HAPPINESS AND SAW HIM OFF...
... RIGHT ...?
NO...
WELL ...

...BEING AGAINST IT WAS TOO MUCH OF A PAIN IN THE BUTT...
YOU NEED TO TRY HARDER !!!

[ISSUE 34]

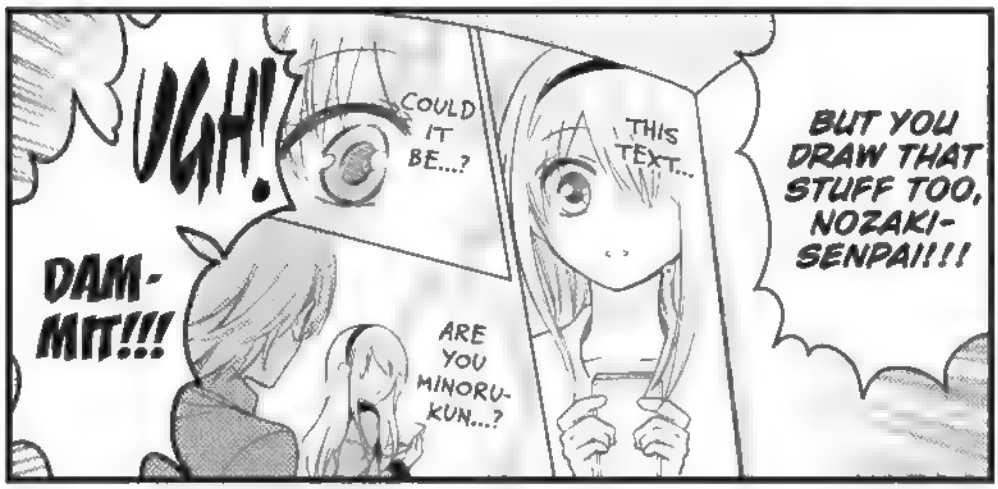
...
OH, SHE'S PRETTY AWE-SOME, ISN'T SHE?
HEY, GUESS WHAT!? I HEARD THAT LORELAI SINGING THE OTHER DAY! YOU KNOW, THE ONE THAT EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT?
OH...
...I GET KINDA SAD.
AND WHEN I THINK ABOUT HOW I'M JUST ONE OF THEM...
I KNOW IT SHOULD BE OBVIOUS, BUT LORELAI-SAN REALLY DOES HAVE A LOT OF FANS.
HEY, WAKA !!!
C'MERE FOR A MINUTE !!!
OHH!
LET'S WALK HOME TO-GETH-ER!
DOGO (THWACK)
OH! SORRY, WAKA!
SHE COULD PICK ON SOMEONE ELSE INSTEAD!!!
WHY DOES SHE ALWAYS GO AFTER ME!!?
DAN (THUD)

EXACTLY THE REALITY HE WISHED FOR

STILL, SINCE I FEEL THIS WAY ABOUT LORELAI-SAN...
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
...MAYBE I'M IN LOVE...
WHAA —!!?
GATA (CLATTER)

YOU'VE NEVER EVEN MET HER! NO WAY YOU CAN HAVE A CRUSH ON HER!!!
B—
BUT ...!!
BA (WHISH)

THIS GIRL GOT TOGETHER WITH A GUY SHE'D NEVER MET BEFORE!!
IT WAS... YOU, WASN'T IT...!?
YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SENT ME THIS GIFT...
ARE YOU USING OLD SCHOOL MANGA AS YOUR REFERENCE AGAIN!!?
LIVE IN THE PRESENT!!!


BUT YOU DRAW THAT STUFF TOO, NOZAKI-SENPAI!!!
THIS TEXT...
COULD IT BE...?
ARE YOU MINORU-KUN...?
UGH!
DAM-MIT!!!

IN MANGA, THE GUY'S ALWAYS HANDSOME, SO THAT'S OKAY!!!
BUT REAL LIFE IS CRUEL!!! YOUR THING WITH LORELAI IS NOTHING MORE THAN A DREAM !!!
I-IT'S NOT REALLY LIKE THAT ...
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SHE ENDED UP BEING ALL BIG AND BUFF !?
I'D ...
...START LIFTING WEIGHTS !!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF SHE TURNED OUT TO BE AS BIG AS A HOUSE!?
OH!
THEN IT WOULD MAKE SENSE THAT SHE HAS A GOOD VOICE.
LIKE AN OPERA SINGER!!!
Y-YOU'RE OPEN TO MORE THAN I EXPECTED, WAKAMATSU ...
SENPAI'S SHOCKED.
WELL, I CARE MORE ABOUT WHAT'S INSIDE.
WHEN IT COMES TO PEOPLE I DON'T LIKE...
...IT'S PRETTY MUCH SEO-SENPAI !!
HA HA HA HA HA!
OH, CRUEL WORLD !!!

...SO IF YOU DID END UP GOING OUT WITH HER, WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WITH LORELAI, I MEAN.
HUH!?
KAAA (BLUSH)
WH— WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SEN-PAI!!?

WELL ... LET'S SEE.
I GUESS WE'D DO THE USUAL STUDENT THING AND GO TO KARAOKE TO START ...
LIKE AN AFTER SCHOOL DATE...
KARAOKE
ZZZ

AND I'D GO CHEER HER ON WHEN SHE'S PRACTIC-ING WITH THE GLEE CLUB!
THAT'S TOTALLY A BOYFRIEND THING!!!
GLEE CLUB
ZZZ

AND LIKE THAT, WE'D GROW CLOSER, LITTLE BY LITTLE...
YOU KNOW HOW IT GOES...
YOU'LL BASICALLY BE SLEEPING THROUGH EVERYTHING. ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT!?

THE TRUTH IS...
...I THINK I MIGHT BE IN LOVE.
WHAA-AAAT!?
BUT SOME-ONE'S AGAINST IT...
WHO WH— !?
YOUR DAD!? YOUR MOM!? YOUR GRANDMA!?
NOZAKI-SENPAI.
NOZAKI-KUN!?
WHY!!?
I-I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY THAT WOULD BE, BUT I'M ROOTING FOR YOU!
GO FOR IT!!
SA-KURA-SENPAI ...!!
WHAT'S SHE LIKE?
SHE'S REALLY NICE AND HAS A BEAUTIFUL HEART.
OHH!
THAT'S GREAT!
BUT I'VE NEVER MET HER.
SORRY, I'M AGAINST THIS TOO.
YOU'RE TOTALLY BEING DUPED THERE.

NOZAKI-KUN, NOZAKI-KUN!
DO YOU KNOW WHO IT IS THAT WAKA-MATSU-KUN LIKES?
KOSO (WHISPER)
KOSO
UH ...
WELL ...
I DO KNOW ...

...BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU, FOR WAKA-MATSU'S SAKE!!!
POOR GUY!!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS SHE LIKE ...!?

THEN GIVE ME A HINT!
WHAT LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡ CHAR-ACTER IS SHE LIKE?
HMM?
OH, WELL ...

HIM.
YOU GOT A HAIRCU DIDN'T YOU?
ARE YOU TRYING TO IMITATE ME?
A-A BOY !!?

HEY, CHIYO.
YOU LOOK REALLY DOWN!!! WHAT'S WRONG?
A BOY, HUH ...?
I GUESS THAT WOULD BE HARD FOR NOZAKI-KUN TO MENTION...

O-OH.
OKAY ...
GOT IT.
IT'S ABOUT LOVE, AFTER ALL...
SOR-RY.
IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, YUZUKI...

SEO-SENPAI ...
TALK TO ME!
HEY, WAKA !!!
WHY SO GLUM!!? DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH ALL OF YOU?
IT'S REALLY THE LAST SORT OF PROBLEM THAT YOU COULD DEAL WITH...

CHAIN REACTION

I REALLY WANNA HEAR A NEW SONG FROM HER...
LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A SERIOUS PROB-LEM.
YEAH ...
SHOULD I MAKE HIM SPIT IT OUT...?
...THEN IT'S BEST I DO IT ON THE WAY HOME. WE'LL GO TO SOME SHOP, AND I'LL GRILL HIM...
A SHOP, HUH...? I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S A NEW ANMITSU SHOP IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD. LET'S GO THERE.
I THINK THE MENU INCLUDES... SWEET RED BEAN SOUP WITH DUMPLINGS AND BROWN SUGAR SYRUP PUDDING...
CREAM ANMITSU SOUNDS GOOD TOO.
WAKA !!!
WHICH DO YOU THINK SOUNDS BETTER? WARABI-MOCHI OR A GREEN TEA PARFAIT !!?
I CAN'T CHOOSE!!
HOW LUCKY. HER LIFE IS ALWAYS SO SIMPLE.

HMM?
UM... SEN-PAI...
MAYBE SENPAI'S WORRIED ABOUT ME TOO... I GUESS I COULD ASK HER FOR ADVICE...

I REALLY LOVE HER SINGING VOICE...
YOU KNOW, LORELAI-SAN, WHO'S DEFINITELY KIND AND PURE AND SOOTHING.
ACTU-ALLY, IT'S ABOUT LORE-LAI-SAN...

...SO I'VE BEEN REALLY DEPRESSED BECAUSE OF THAT...
BUT THAT'S REALLY SELFISH AND RUDE OF ME...
BUT SHE HASN'T BEEN SINGING LATELY, AND WHILE I AM WORRIED, I ALSO CAN'T STAND NOT GETTING TO HEAR A NEW SONG FROM HER!

YOU'RE NOT SUP-POSED TO LOOK SO HAPPY ABOUT IT!!!
NIYA (GRIN)
にやにや
NIYA
Ohhh ...?

WAKA-MATSU, I GOT THE NEW SONG !!!
OH!
REALLY !!?
GATA (CLATTER)
GATA (CLATTER)
WAAAH!
IT REALLY IS A NEW SONG!!!
ALL RIGHT!
GOOD FOR YOU, WAKA-MATSU.
THERE'S JUST ONE THING THAT I DON'T GET...
GAN (SHOCK)
YOU ALWAYS...
ZZZ
...FALL ASLEEP THREE SECONDS AFTER IT STARTS !!!

...BUT I'M SURE...
...SOMETHING HAPPENED THAT HAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH ME...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SUDDENLY MADE LORELAI-SAN MAKE A COMEBACK IN THE END...

.....
BUT...
...FOR NOW, AT LEAST...
IT'S OBVIOUS, BUT I'M STILL KINDA SAD ABOUT IT...

LET'S DO THIS !!!
AAALL RIGHT !!!

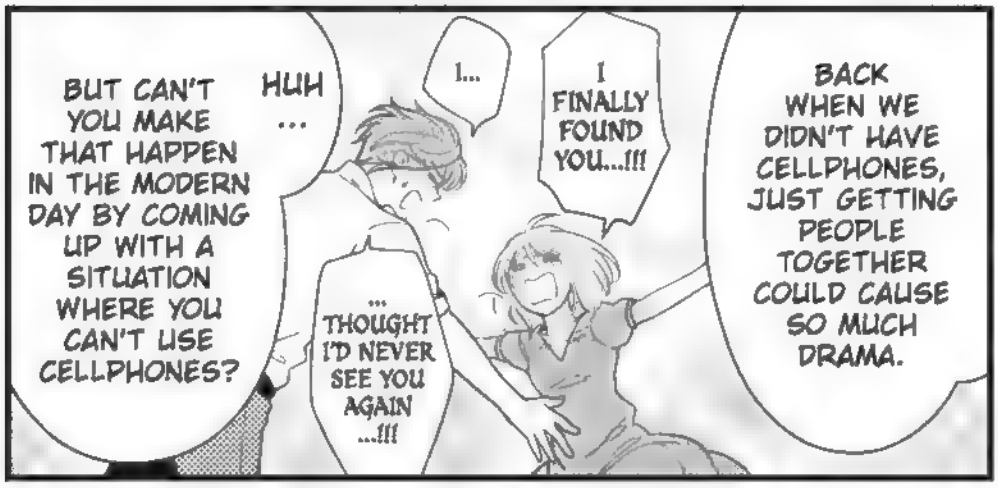
HA HA HA HA HA!
...THAT SEO-SENPAI'S IN A GOOD MOOD!!!
...I REALLY CAN'T STAND IT...

WAKAMATSU'S FAN SPIRIT

YAAAY!
ISO (EAGER)
ISO
WAKA-MATSU.
HERE'S A NEW SONG.
HE FALLS ASLEEP THREE SECONDS IN, SO HE'LL NEVER NOTICE...
ACTUALLY, I JUST CUT THE MIDDLE PART OF THE LAST SONG OUT AND GAVE THAT TO HIM.
GON (THUNK)
YOU KNOW, YOU'RE KINDA CREEPY.
DID YOU GET THE WRONG ONE?
SENPAI, THAT SONG FROM YESTERDAY WAS THE SAME AS THE THIRTY-SECOND MARK FROM SONG SEVEN, YOU KNOW?

[ISSUE 35]

WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
THE OLD DAYS WERE SO MUCH BET-TER...


BUT CAN'T YOU MAKE THAT HAPPEN IN THE MODERN DAY BY COMING UP WITH A SITUATION WHERE YOU CAN'T USE CELLPHONES?
HUH ...
I...
... THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE YOU AGAIN ...!!!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...!!!
BACK WHEN WE DIDN'T HAVE CELLPHONES, JUST GETTING PEOPLE TOGETHER COULD CAUSE SO MUCH DRAMA.

WELL... WOULDN'T A FAIRY SHOWING UP BE THE BIGGER ISSUE THERE?
NO WAY ...!!!
MY PHONE ...!!!
I PUT A SPELL ON YOUR PHONE SO IT DOESN'T GET RECEPTION!☆
FAIRY
WHERE YOU CAN'T USE CELL-PHONES...
THEN MAYBE SOME-THING LIKE THIS?

ONCE AGAIN, WOULDN'T THAT BE THE BIGGER ISSUE?
WHO CARES ABOUT THE PHONE?
MAMIKO!!!
EEEEE!
LIKE, UTTERLY BREAKS IT!!
OH! THEN HOW ABOUT MAMIKO GETS POSSESSED BY A JEALOUS SPIRIT AND SMASHES HER PHONE TO BITS!?

YOU COULD PROBABLY MAKE IT HAPPEN IF YOU TRIED TO GET TOGETHER AT A LARGE STATION WITHOUT DECIDING ON A SPECIFIC MEETING PLACE.
AND LIMIT PHONE USE JUST A LITTLE...
I GUESS SO.
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW FOR SURE UNTIL YOU TRIED IT, THOUGH...

THEN I MIGHT AS WELL DO A LITTLE EXPERI-MENT...
I'LL ASK SAKURA TO HELP ME OUT.
TOMORROW'S SATURDAY...
SAKURA ...? OH, THAT GIRL WITH THE RIBBONS.

COULD HE BE USING THE EXPERI-MENT AS AN EXCUSE TO GO ON A DATE ...?
THERE'S A SHOUJO MANGA-KA FOR YOU. ALWAYS SO INDIRECT.
GOING OUT SOMEWHERE ON A DAY OFF, JUST THE TWO OF YOU... YOU KNOW WHAT THAT MEANS, DON'T YOU?

YOU'RE SO RIGHT. WE'D GET LONELY, WOULDN'T WE!?
WAY TO GO, KEN-SAN!!
I'LL ASK MIKO-SHIBA TOO!
SHIT. I HAD IT ALL WRONG!

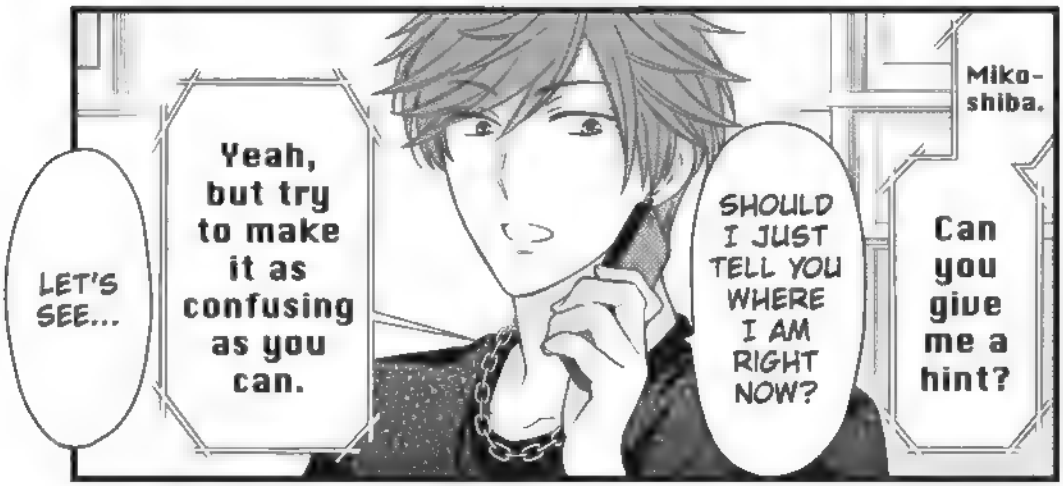
I DID TRY TO DRESS UP A LITTLE...
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
DOKI
DOKI
IT'S NOT WEIRD, IS IT?
I WONDER IF NOZAKI-KUN WILL SAY ANYTHING.

I HOPE HE COMES SOON. I HOPE HE COMES SOON!
SOWA (NERVOUS)
SOWA
SOWA
CALM DOWN, CHIYO.
NO NEED TO PANIC. WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER SOON... ♡

OH.
SAKU-RA?
ACTUALLY, THAT MEETING PLACE WAS JUST A DUMMY.
THE GOAL TODAY IS TO GET TOGETHER WITHOUT USING CELLPHONES AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
IF WE CAN'T FIND EACH OTHER, WE JUST HEAD HOME.

I HAVE TO FIND A WAY...
...TO FIND HIM ...!!!

CONFUSING HINTS


LET'S SEE...
Yeah, but try to make it as confusing as you can.
SHOULD I JUST TELL YOU WHERE I AM RIGHT NOW?
Miko-shiba.
Can you give me a hint?

Sakura, could you give me a hint?
UMM ...
OH!
THERE'S BREAD!
FAMOUS! THE LEGENDARY CREAM BUN
IT SAYS IT'S "FAMOUS"!

What!? What kind of bread is it!?
What does it look like!?
How's it taste!? Is it good !?
IT SAYS IT'S A CREAM BUN!
IT'S WHITE !!! HUH? OH!
IT LOOKS REALLY FLUFFY !!!
HUH?
MOGU (MUNCH)
WAIT A MIN-UTE !!!
MOGU
MOGU

GACHAN (CLATTER)
Okay, got it!!!
NOT SUPER-SWEET AND REALLY GOOD !!!

TSUUU (BOOP)
TSUUU
TSUUU

GACHA (CLICK)
PURURURURU (PRRING)
Saku-ra!!!
I KNOW!! MIKORIN AND I CAN COMMISER-ATE OVER THIS SENSE OF LONELI-NESS!!

I'm pretty sure this is as cheap as they'll get, so I wanna get one of them.
HUH!?
WELL!
WHA—!?
Hey, there's this figure I want, and there's a limited edition and a regular one. Which one do you think I should get!?
Per-fect tim-ing !!!
H-HOW ARE THEY DIFFER-ENT!?
HUH!?

WHITE OR POLKA DOTS !!!?
THE UNDER-WEAR!

BARI (RIP)
SAKURA!? HEY, SAKURA!!

COULD NOZAKI-KUN HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME...!?
I THINK I'LL GET MOVING AND GO LOOK FOR BOTH OF THEM!!
TA (DASH)
タッ

HUH?
TA
テテテテテテ
TE
TE (TROT)
TE

I HAVE TO GO AFTER HER ...!!!
SAKURA ...!! SHE DIDN'T MOVE, DID SHE ...!?
BA (WHAP)
バッ
A BAKERY ...
COULD THIS BE...?

AMOUS!
LEGENDARY
EAM BUN
KARAN (JANGLE)
カラン
KARAN
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
DA (DASH)
ダッ

WHAT THEY WANTED TO SAY BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE

I WAS LOOKING AT FOOD THE ENTIRE TIME...
IT WASN'T MOVING OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
I'M GLAD WE MANAGED TO MEET UP, BUT WE BOTH COMPLETELY FORGOT WHY WE WERE HERE TODAY, DIDN'T WE?
DELICIOUS! CROQUETTES
CAKE
Deli Heaven
THE TWO WHO STAYED IN THE FOOD COURT

NO MORE OF THIS LAME HINT STUFF! LET'S FIND HIM WITH JUST OUR WILLPOWER!!!
LET'S GO FIND MIKO-RIN!!!
YEAH!
LET'S DO IT!!
...NOW THERE'S JUST MIKO-SHIBA LEFT...

MIKO-SHIBA?
PURURURU (RING)
PI (BEEP)
HELLO?

Huh? You can't reach either one of them on their phones?
SERIOUSLY?
But didn't you all go out together?
Huh? You're lost!

IF I CAN JUST GET BACK TO THE STATION, I CAN HEAD STRAIGHT HOME...
DAMMIT...! WHY DOES THE STATION HAVE TO BE CONNECTED TO THE TERMINAL, AND FROM THERE TO EVEN MORE BUILDINGS ...?

THOSE TWO MIGHT BE DESPERATELY LOOKING FOR ME RIGHT NOW...
MIKORI!!!!N!
WAIT... BUT ISN'T THAT TOO MUCH...?

I DO HAVE ONE CARD LEFT UP MY SLEEVE!!!
I CAN'T REACH THEM BY 'PHONE, AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE THEY ARE... BUT!
KI (GLINT)

MIKORIN!!?
Mikoto Miko-shiba-kun from ○○ City is waiting at the information desk.
We have a lost child.
PINPOOON (BING-BONG)
ピーンポーン!

YOU TWO ...!!!
!!!
MIKO-RIIIN!!
MIKO-SHIBA!

WAIT! WHAT'S WITH THAT STUFF YOU'RE CARRY-ING!!?
DELICIOUS! CROQUETTES
CAKE

YOU ATE IT!? YOU ABANDONED ME AND ATE IT YOURSELF!?
IT WAS GOOD.
I WAS GOING TO GIVE THIS TO YOU, MIKORIN!
PUDDIN

EAT THAT AFTER YOU GET HOME!!!
WHAT ARE YOU CHOWING DOWN FOR!!?
IT WAS GOOD.
I HAVE SWEET-AND-SOUR PORK FOR YOU.

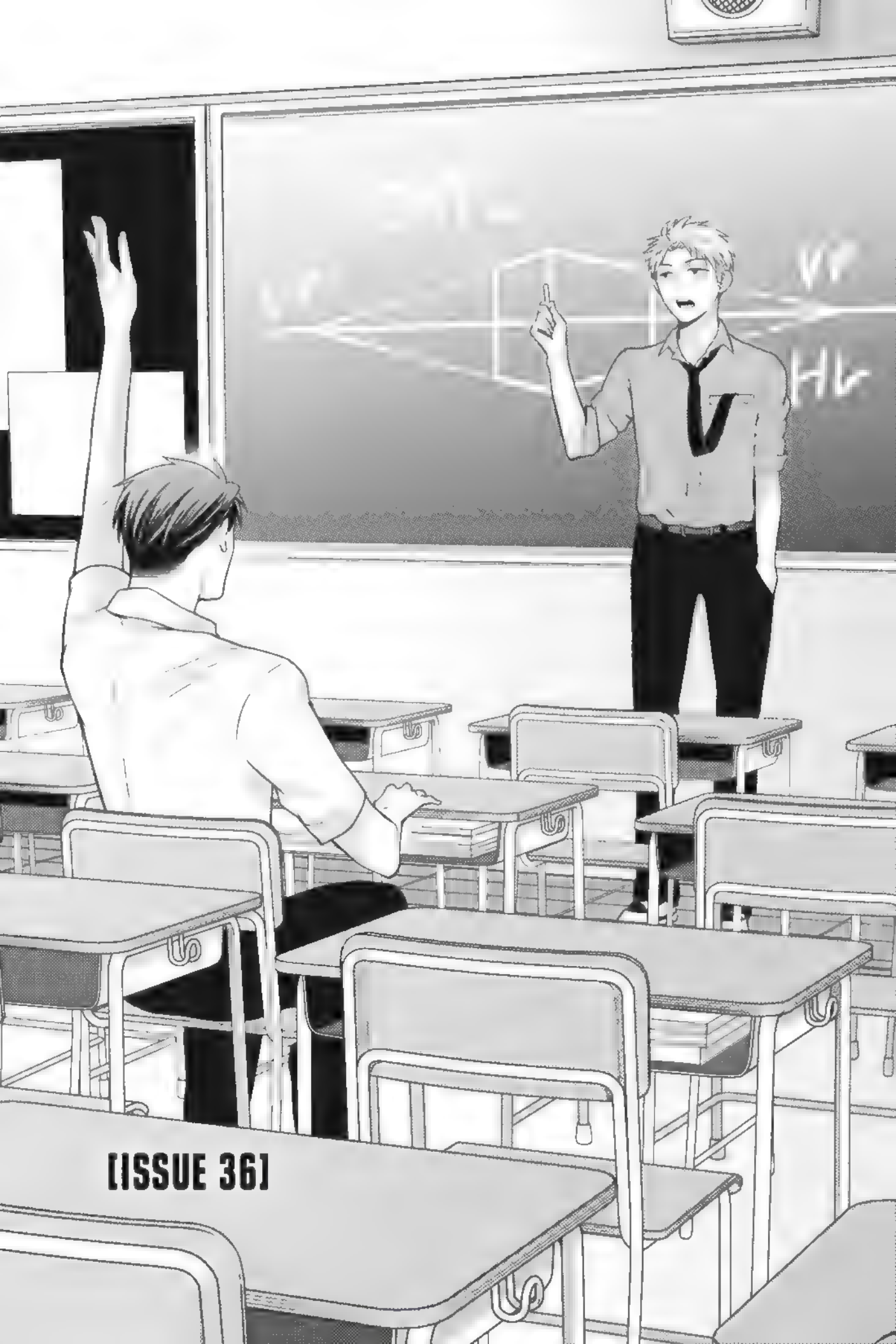
WELL...
HOW DID IT GO?
YOU WERE GOING TO DO AN EXPERIMENT LAST WEEK, WEREN'T YOU?

YOU KNEW THAT FROM THE START!
IT'S REALLY MUCH MORE CONVE-NIENT TO HAVE A CELL-PHONE.

LIKE WHAT?
IS HE GOING TO WRAP THIS UP WITH AN "AND THAT'S THE EXCITEMENT OF MEETING UP!♡"?
AH...
BUT... THERE ARE STILL SOME THINGS THAT HAVEN'T CHANGED EVEN NOW...

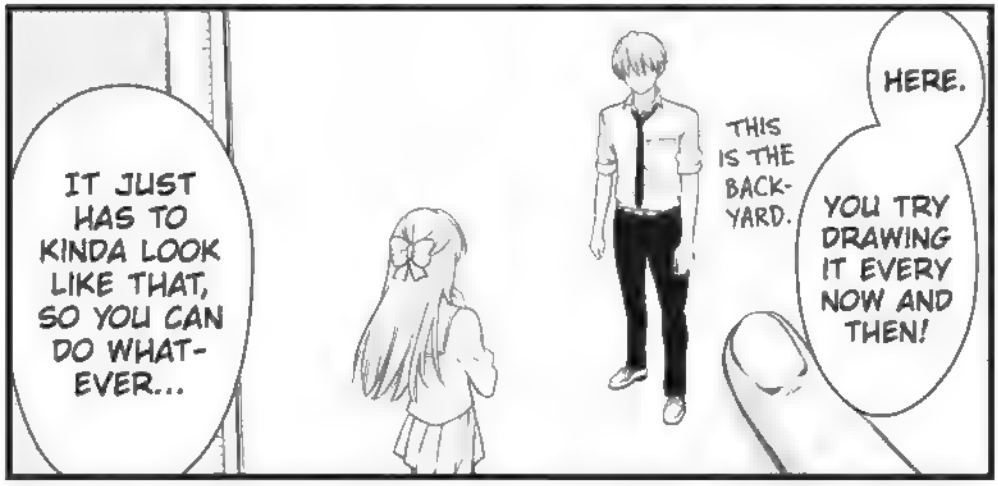
WHAT IN THE WORLD WERE YOU DOING!?
LIKE THE MISSING CHILDREN DESK.

ARE YOU LOST TOO, MISTER?
YOU OKAY?
WANT SOME CANDY?
GOOD KID BISCUITS
THE MISSING CHIL-DREN DESK
DON'T BE NICE TO ME RIGHT NOW.
I'LL FALL FOR YOU.

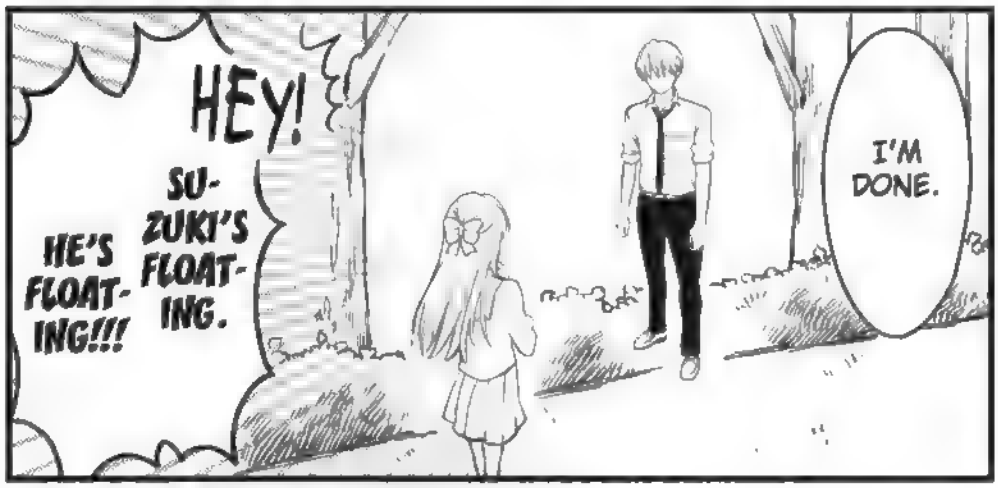


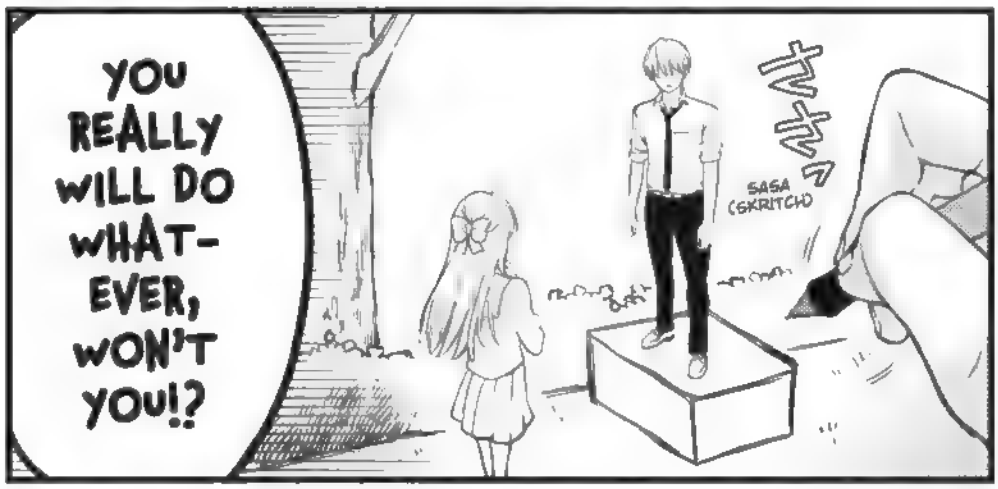
[ISSUE 36]

HORI-SEN-PAI, SORRY.
THERE'RE A LOT OF BACK-GROUNDS THIS TIME.
SCHOOL, THE VACATION HOUSE, AND LOTS OF BUILDINGS...
UGH!
FOR REAL ...?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
DO YOU WANT US TO HELP?
NAH. I'M FINE.
I'LL GET BY SOME-HOW.
YEAH.
IT'S OKAY.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
HE'S RIGHT.
LEAVE THIS TO THE PEOPLE WHO ARE GOOD AT IT!
OTHER-WISE ALL HIS HARD WORK WAS FOR NOTHING!!
BUT YOU NEED TO TRY A LITTLE HARDER!
IT'S YOUR MANGA, AFTER ALL!


IT JUST HAS TO KINDA LOOK LIKE THAT, SO YOU CAN DO WHAT-EVER...
THIS IS THE BACK-YARD.
HERE.
YOU TRY DRAWING IT EVERY NOW AND THEN!

OH. O—
SO HE CAN ULTIMATELY BE DILIGENT ABOUT THIS...
I'M A PROFES-SIONAL.
IF I'M GOING TO DO THIS, I'M GOING TO DO IT RIGHT.
SEN-PAI!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT-EVER?

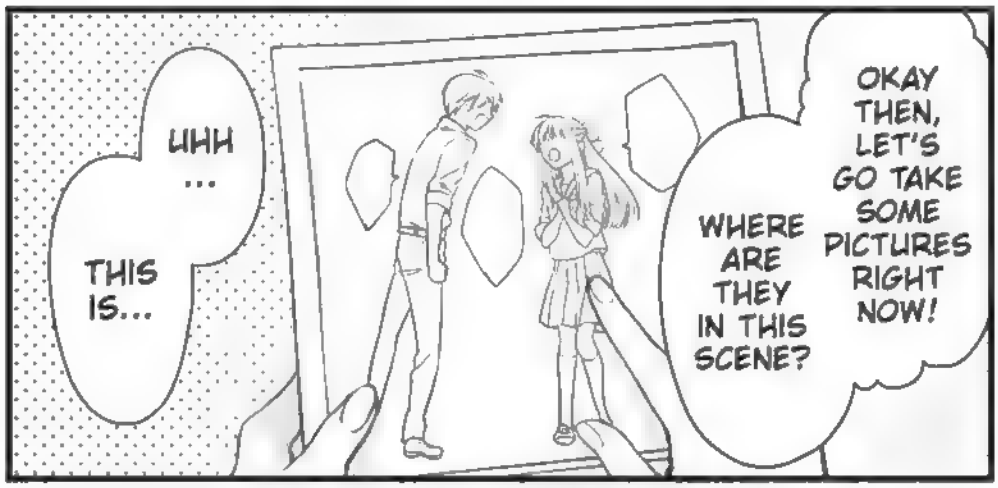

HEY!
HE'S FLOAT-ING!!!
SU-ZUKI'S FLOAT-ING.
I'M DONE.


YOU REALLY WILL DO WHAT-EVER, WON'T YOU!?
SASA (SKRITCH)

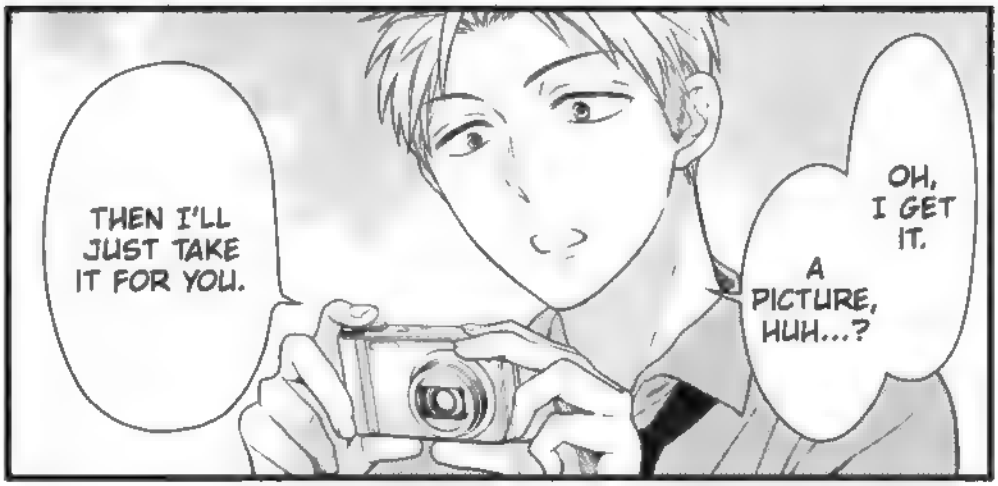
MAMIKO'S STANDING ON A BOX RIGHT NOW.
HEY, DOESN'T SUZUKI SEEM KINDA SHORT IN THIS PANEL?
ALL OF MAMIKO'S CLASS-MATES ARE STANDING ON BOXES.
AND THIS ...
HE CLIMBED UP ON THE BOX.
AND HERE HE'S REALLY TALL.
S—
BIKU (FLINCH)
SORRY ...!
IT DOESN'T EVEN WORK AS AN EXCUSE!!!
BAN (SLAM)
ばん
AGH!
BOX, BOX, BOX! WHAT SORT OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT IS ALWAYS CARRYING AROUND A BOX!!?
NOT THAT PART !!!
...REALLY INTO BOXES! ♡
LATELY EVERY-ONE'S BEEN ...
I'LL BE SURE TO INCLUDE AN EXPLANA-TION.

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR BACK-GROUNDS WHEN YOU'RE DOING ART CLUB STUFF, SAKURA?
LIKE IN STILL LIFES...
HMM.
I JUST DRAW WHAT I SEE IN FRONT OF ME...
...AND SOME-TIMES I TAKE PICTURES, AND...

I KNOW!! WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A PICTURE AND THEN DRAW THAT?
REFERENCE
MANGA
I GET IT!
THAT SHOULD PUT A LITTLE LESS PRES-SURE ON SENPAI.


OKAY THEN, LET'S GO TAKE SOME PICTURES RIGHT NOW!
WHERE ARE THEY IN THIS SCENE?
UHH...
THIS IS...

LET ME GO ASK SENPAI!
I DON'T KNOW.
DA DASH!


OH, I GET IT.
A PICTURE, HUH...?
THEN I'LL JUST TAKE IT FOR YOU.

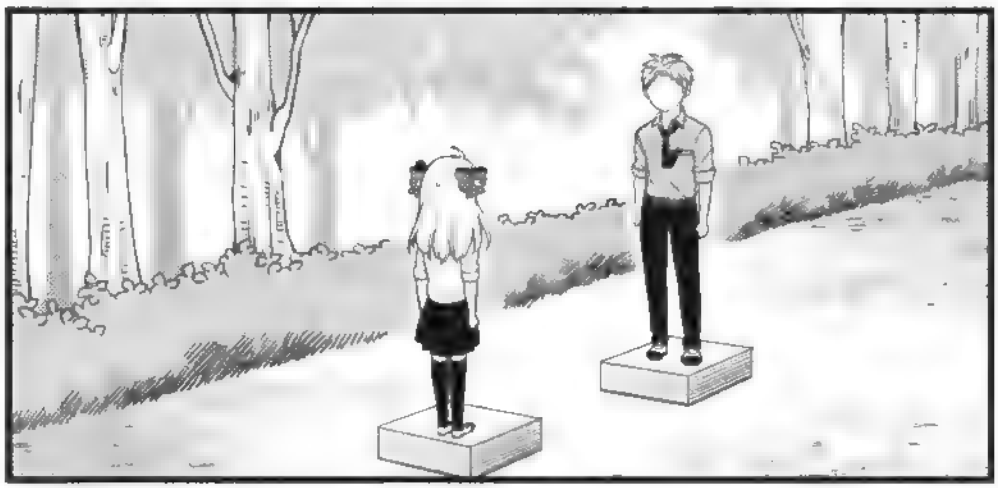
OKAY, NOZAKI, YOU'RE SUZUKI.
AND SAKURA, YOU'RE STANDING IN FOR MAMIKO.
HUH!!?

WAIT A MINUTE.
IS THIS A PICTURE OF THE TWO OF US!?
DOKI (BADUM)
DOKI
DOKI
AND ...
...I'M STANDING IN FOR MAMIKO ...!
.....

SAKURA DISAP-PEARED!

THEN I'LL TAKE THE CAMERA ...
THANKS.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
HEIGHT-WISE, IT MIGHT WORK BETTER WITH SAKURA AND ME.

IF THEY WERE JUST, WELL...A LITTLE HIGHER UP...YEAH, IF WE HAD THAT...
SOME-THING'S NOT RIGHT...
THE ARRANGEMENT AND THE DIFFERENCE IN HEIGHT ARE SIMILAR, BUT...
..... HUH ...?



... AGAIN !!?
BOXES ...

HUH?
SEN-PAI...
PARA (FLIP)
PARA
UH, A HALLWAY BACK-GROUND...
MAYBE IT'LL BE EASIER TO LOOK THROUGH A PREVIOUS ISSUE AND FIND A SIMILAR SCENE INSTEAD.

MANGA: LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡

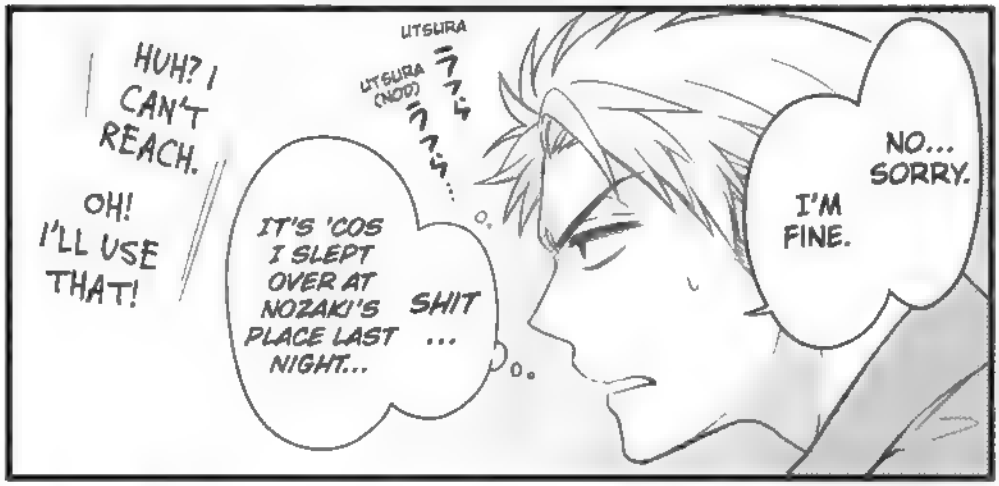
WELL ... IT'S JUST IN CASE.
IT'S NOT ALL THAT RARE!
YEAH.
ARE YOU REALLY THAT PRESSED FOR TIME...!?
HUH!?
YOU'RE SLEEPING OVER TONIGHT, SENPAI?

PRETTY OFTEN...
YEAH.
?
YOU SLEEP OVER A LOT?
.....

SO DEPEND-ABLE!!!
...DRAW BACK-GROUNDS!!
NOW I CAN...
...HOW ABOUT YOU REST YOUR HEAD ON MY LAP?
IF YOU WANT TO NAP...
...SLEEP OVER!!!
PLEASE...
.....

SHARE SOME OF THAT DESPERA-TION WITH NOZAKI...
I SO DO !!!
I—!
I WANT TO LEARN TO DRAW BACK-GROUNDS!

PRESI-
DENT.
IF YOU'RE TIRED, YOU CAN ALWAYS GO GET SOME SLEEP IN THE NURSE'S OFFICE.
!!
ガクリ
GAKU (SLUMP)


UTSURA
UTSURA (NOD)
うつら…
HUH? I CAN'T REACH.
OH! I'LL USE THAT!
IT'S 'COS I SLEPT OVER AT NOZAKI'S PLACE LAST NIGHT...
SHIT ...
NO... SORRY. I'M FINE.

.....

PRESIDENT!!?
GAKON! (THWACK)
I TOLD YOU NOT TO STAND ON BOXES!!!

HONESTLY, HORI-CHAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU'RE DEAD ON YOUR FEET.
ZZz
SHOULD WE JUST...
...CARRY HIM TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE NOW?
SOME-ONE GIVE ME A HAND.
!

UM... CAN I DO IT?
KA-SHIMA-KUN...
AT THE END OF THE DAY, YOU REALLY DO LIKE HORI-CHAN, DON'T YOU, KASHIMA-KUN?

BA (FWOOSH)

Now, senpai ...
I'll carry you like a princess.
NO...!!! SHE'S TOTALLY TRYING TO PISS HIM OFF...!!!

HORI-SENPAI WOULD HAVE BEEN TOTALLY THRILLED ...
HON-ESTLY!
NO ONE UNDER-STANDS!
THEY WERE COM-PLETELY AGAINST IT.
STOP IT!!
.....MM?
AN ELEGANT, REFINED HORSE, PERFECT FOR YOU, SENPAI...
BUT NEVER FEAR!! IF I CAN'T BE A PRINCE, THEN I'LL BE YOUR HORSE!!
IT'S A RODEO !!!
A RODEO ...!?
GAKU (WOBBLE)
WHOA!
WAH!
DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO DO (THUD)
OH NO!!! THIS IS A BULL !!!

WHO?
WHO?
THANKS FOR CARRYING ME...I GUESS?
U-UHHH ...?
KAPA (POP)
PASA (RUSTLE)
SO HOT!
OH, COME ON! IT'S JUST ME, SENPAI.
HUH?
SENPAI?
.....
ON SECOND THOUGHT, I'LL DO ALL THE BACK-GROUNDS MYSELF.
IN EXCHANGE, MAKE THE NEXT SCRIPT ONE ABOUT A PRINCE WHO GETS TURNED INTO A BULL.
WITH A FLASHY SCENE WHERE THE CURSE GETS BROKEN!
BARI
BARI
BARI (SKRITCH)
IF YOU SAY SO... A BULL?

THE BULL PRINCE

[ISSUE 37]

A VISITOR WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT

YOU KNOW, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY WAITED THIS LONG...
IT'S REALLY HOT TODAY!
...GETTING HERE TOOK ME...
...TWENTY MINUTES BY TRAIN AND THEN ANOTHER TEN BY FOOT...

WELL, I CAN'T REALLY JUST LEAVE HIM AND LET HIM COLLAPSE...
WHAT TO DO!..?

THAT'S RIGHT. I'M THE ONLY GUY MAYU CAN RELY ON IN THIS SITUATION...

I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR HIM, AS HIS ELDER...

MI-KOTO-SAN.
WHICH DO YOU PREFER, BARLEY TEA OR GREEN TEA?
.....
BAR-LEY TEA ...

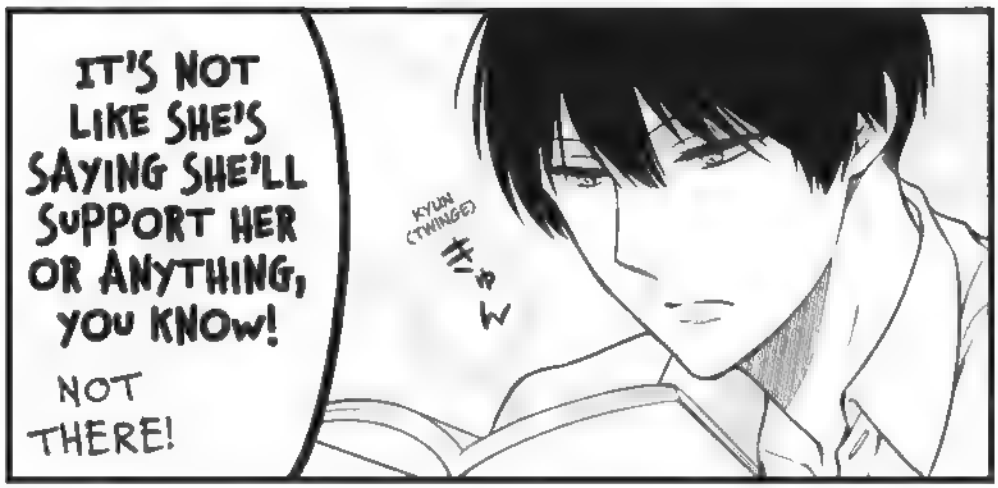
I'VE MET MIKOSHIBA-KUN SEVERAL TIMES NOW, BUT HE STILL ISN'T USED TO ME...
NO PROB-LEM.
BIKU
BIKU CTWITCHD
S-SORRY ...
...TO INTRUDE ...
HE'S KIND OF, WELL...
HISSS
...LIKE A CAT!
HA HA HA!
MROOOW

TO SUM IT ALL UP

TAKE MIYAKO-SAN'S MANGA HERE FOR EXAMPLE ...
BUT REALLY...
...WHEN YOU ABRIDGE ROMANCE MANGA, THEY PRETTY MUCH ALL END UP THE SAME!!
TANUKI.
UMM... ABRIDGED IT'S LIKE THIS!!
OHH! WELL!?
MIKOTO-SAN?
SHIDORO (PANIC)
A WOMAN ... UHHH ...
THERE'S A WOMAN ...
...AND A TANUKI.
MODORO (STUTTER)
AND A GUY... UM? WAS THERE A GUY...?
OH!
THERE'S A TANUKI!!

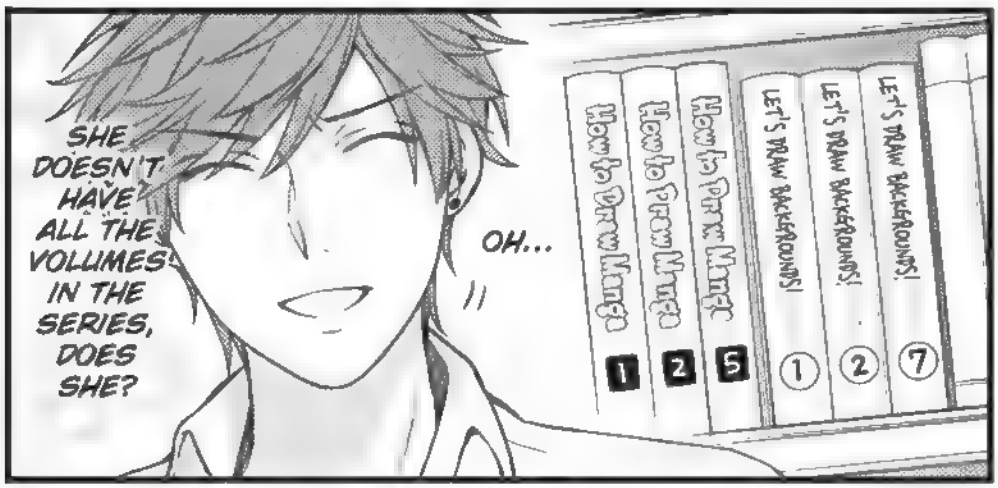
A HEART-POUNDING LINE

SHOUJO MANGA HAS A LOT OF LINES THAT GET YOU RIGHT IN THE HEART-STRINGS. IT'S NICE.
SHIGE (INTENT)
レけレけ
SHIGE
!!
HE ACTUALLY HAS A SERIOUS SENSE FOR THIS STUFF...



A COLLEGE GIRL'S ROOM

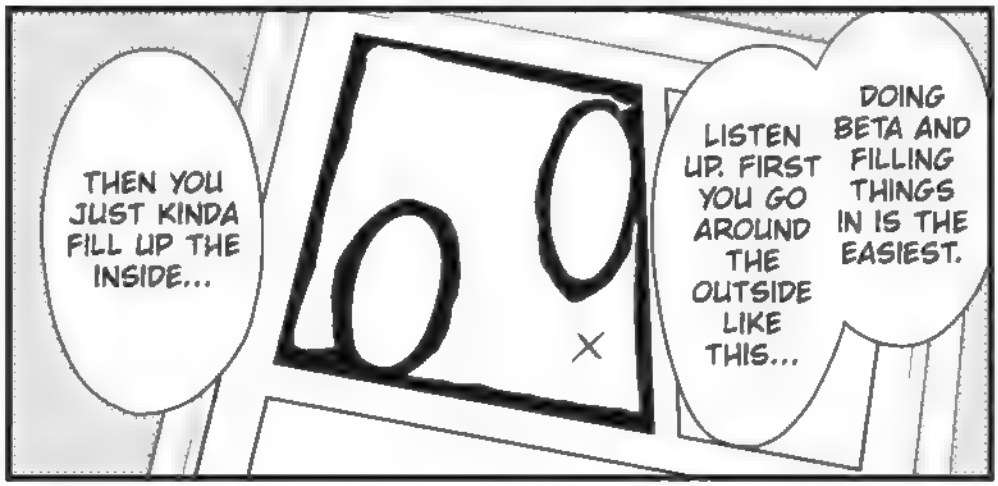
I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY BEEN IN A GIRL'S ROOM BEFORE...
KYORO (GLANCE)
KYORO
....
SHE'S A MANGA-KA JUST LIKE NOZAKI, BUT HER PLACE IS REALLY PRETTY...


LET'S DRAW BACKGROUNDS! ⑦
LET'S DRAW BACKGROUNDS! ②
LET'S DRAW BACKGROUNDS! ①
How to Draw Manga 5
How to Draw Manga 2
How to Draw Manga 1
OH...
SHE DOESN'T HAVE ALL THE VOLUMES IN THE SERIES, DOES SHE?

IMPLIED AND OUTRIGHT MEANINGS

OHH! SO THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT!
YOU SURPRISED ME!
THAT MADE YOUR HEART GO THUMP, DIDN'T IT?
CHA (FWISH)
I MEAN I'LL HELP DRAW SOME FLOWERS FOR YOU.

MODELING WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER...
I'LL TEACH YOU, SO JUST KEEP THOSE HANDS MOVING!
YOU WANNA THANK HER, DON'T YOU?


DOING BETA AND FILLING THINGS IN IS THE EASIEST.
LISTEN UP. FIRST YOU GO AROUND THE OUTSIDE LIKE THIS...
THEN YOU JUST KINDA FILL UP THE INSIDE...

.....
WHAT? YOU'RE ALL LOST IN THOUGHT.
DID YOU NOT GET PART OF IT?

I'M THINKING ABOUT HOW I SHOULD BOYCOTT THIS WORK.
JUST GO TO SLEEP!

I'M GONNA GO HIT THE BATH-ROOM. DON'T DO ANYTHING, MAYU.
OKAY.

YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT GUY'S GONNA DO THE MINUTE YOU TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM...
ZAAA (FSSHH)
THOUGH MIYAKO-SAN'S A DECENT PERSON, SO THAT'S A RELIEF...

ガチャ
GACHA (KACHAK)

I—
I'M SO SORRY !!!
BA (FWISH)
ばっ
YOU TOO !!?
WAAAH!

WELL, I GUESS IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT, I WON'T SAY ANYTHING, MIYAKO-SAN...
KARI (SKRITCH)
KARI
KARI
OH!

WOOW!!! YOU REALLY ARE GOOD AT DRAWING FLOWERS, MIKO-SHIBA-KUN!
!!
SO PRETTY!!
W-WELL ...
...I DON'T EXACTLY HATE DETAIL WORK.

I JUST DON'T GET IT...
.....
WHAT'S THIS...?
WAI (CHATTER)
WAI
WAI
OH!
NEXT CAN YOU DO A COVER TOO...!?
YEAH! THAT POSE!!!
WAAAH!
WAI
GREAT, GREAT!!

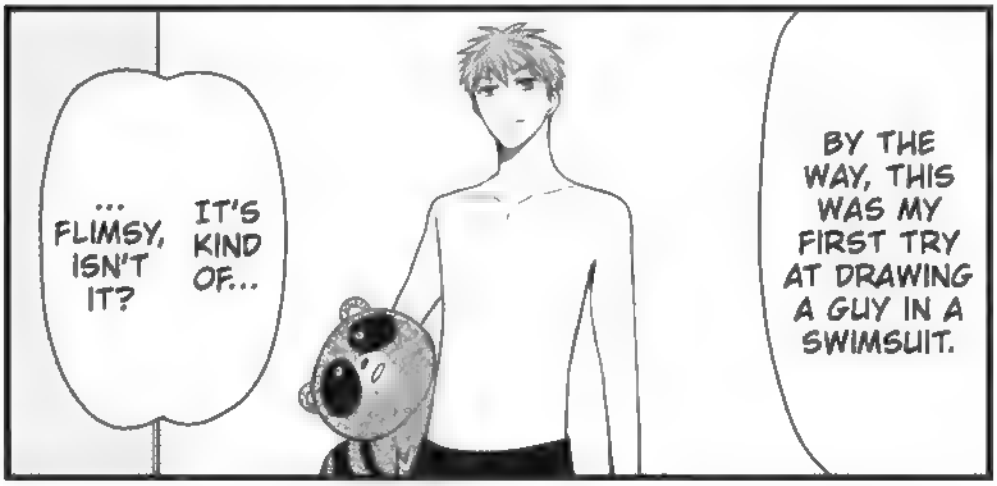
MIKORIN'S NOT GOOD WITH STRANGERS. IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
WAAAH!
LOOKS LIKE HE'S AT MIYAKO-SAN'S PLACE.
OH NO!!! I GOT A TEXT FROM MIKO-SHIBA!!
SALE
UP TO 30% OFF
ART & OFFICE SUPPLIES
DA DA DA DA DA DA
だだだだだだだ
DA (THUD)
IN THAT CASE ...
SCREW THAT!!
HMM? THESE SHOES ...
MIYAKO-SAAN!?
HUH? IT'S OPEN?
BATAN (SHUT)
THERE! TAKE A LOOK AT...
BA (WHAP)
...I'LL STRIP TOO!!!
...THIS .....

A REAL LIVE HIGH SCHOOL BOY

DO YOU DRAW GIRLS IN SWIMSUITS, NOZAKI-KUN?
ISN'T DRAWING THE OPPOSITE SEX'S BODY HARD?
WELL ...
...I'M USED TO SEEING THEM.
... WHEN IT COMES TO SWIM-SUITS ...
OHH... MUST BE NICE BEING IN HIGH SCHOOL ...
THEY GET TO GO IN THE POOL FOR CLASS ...
AND IT REALLY DOES GIVE HIS MANGA A DIFFERENT SORT OF IMPACT TOO...
ALL DONE.
WHAT SORT OF THINGS DO YOU LOOK AT, NOZAKI-KUN?

MIKOSHIBA'S FIGURE

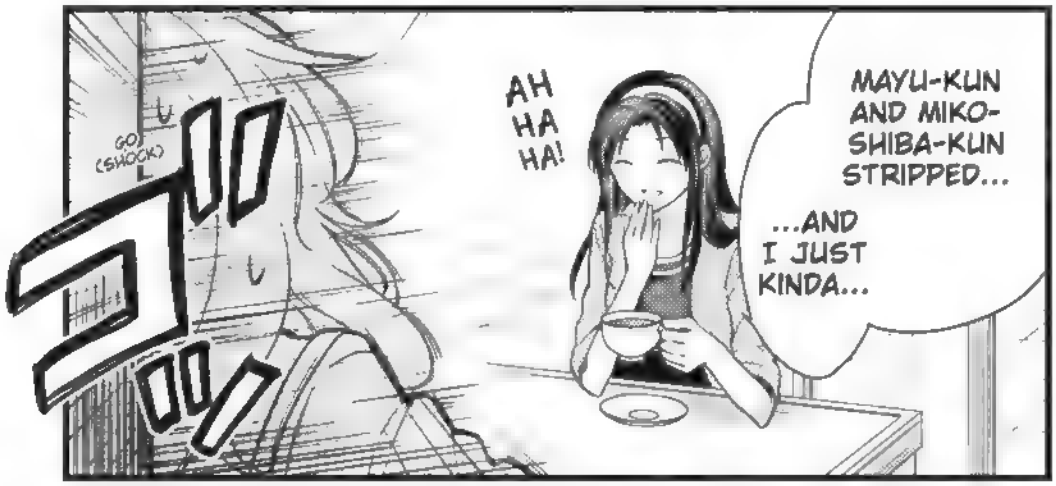
GETTING THE BALANCE RIGHT IS JUST SO HARD...
I'M NOT REALLY SURE.
WHY IS IT JUST THE BARE BODY THAT YOU CAN'T DRAW?
BUT YOU MANAGE ROUGH SKETCHES ALL RIGHT, MIYAKO-SAN.


... FLIMSY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S KIND OF...
BY THE WAY, THIS WAS MY FIRST TRY AT DRAWING A GUY IN A SWIMSUIT.

NOW IT'S A BIT TOO REAL.
AND THIS IS WHAT I DREW NEXT WHILE LOOKING AT A PICTURE.

THE DAY'S FINALLY COME WHEN THE TANUKI IS ACTUALLY USEFUL.
IT'S A CENSOR.
I THINK THIS YEAR I'LL JUST STICK WITH THIS...

...I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTER-DAY.
SO...
OH.
THAT'S ...
...YUKARI AND HER BOYFRIEND ...!!!


GO (SHOCK)
AH HA HA!
MAYU-KUN AND MIKO-SHIBA-KUN STRIPPED...
...AND I JUST KINDA...

EEEEK!
WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU SAYING TO YOUR BOY-FRIEND ...!!?
I THINK I ACTUALLY PREFER MIKOSHIBA-KUN'S BODY...
BUT, YOU KNOW...
MAYU-KUN'S STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH...
...BUT HE'S PRETTY RIPPED.

HEY, BOY-FRIEND !!!
I THINK SO TOO.

OH.
IT WAS SUPPOSED TO POUR TODAY, WASN'T IT?
IT'S STARTED RAINING.
ZAAA (FSSHH)
PO (PLOP)
PO
OH.

PINPOOON (DING-DONG)
SO, THE MANU-SCRIPT...
YEAH. I'M GLAD I'M STAYING OVER TONIGHT.

.....
.....HUH?

NO-ZAKI-SEN-PAI!!!
LEMME BOR-ROW AN UM-BRELLA !!!
IT'S REALLY COMING DOWN!!!
GACHA (KACHAK)

NO-ZAKI !!!
LEMME HIDE HERE!!!
THE TRAINS STOPPED!!!
GACHA

[ISSUE 38]

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO? WE CAN'T GET THE MANU-SCRIPT DONE LIKE THIS.
KOSO (WHISPER)
KOSO,
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...WHY DO YOU KEEP IT A SECRET ANYWAY, SENPAI?

WELL ... ...IT'S BECAUSE IT WOULD SUCK IF KASHIMA FOUND OUT.
WHAA—? SENPAI...
YOU HEAR ME?
IF SHE FOUND OUT...
...YOU'RE GETTING PLAYS WRITTEN JUST FOR ME?

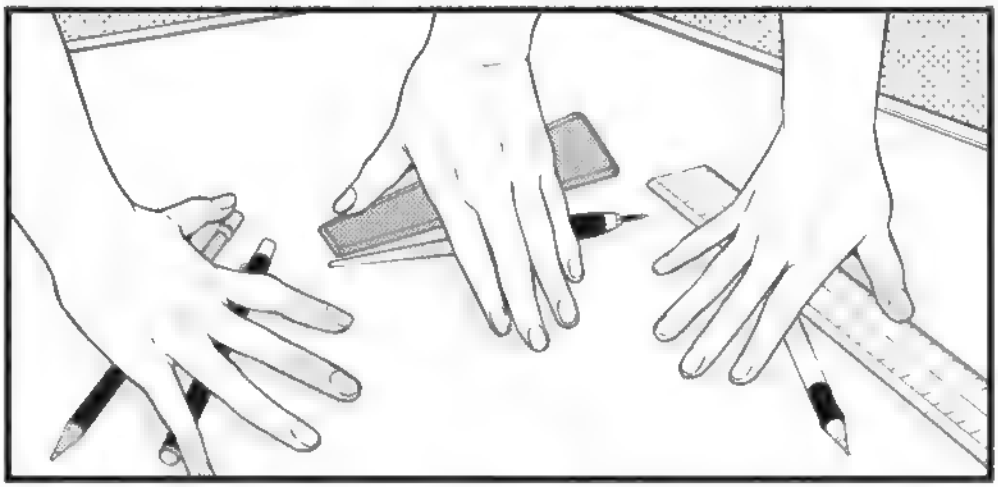
SENPAAAA!!
I'LL HELP TOO!
KYAA!
KYAA!
KASHIMA-KUUN!
KASHIMA-KUUN!

NO...
SENPAI, IT REALLY WOULDN'T GET THAT BAD...
YOU'RE OVER-REACTING.
GYUU!
GYUU!
GYUU~ (PACKED)
KYAA!
KYAA!
KYAA!
SORRY, NOZAKI !!!
YOUR POOR APART-MENT.!!!!

REVISING HIS INITIAL IMPRESSION

YOU GUYS JUST GO MAKE YOURSELVES COMFORT-ABLE.
FOR NOW, I'LL MAKE US SOME DINNER.

LET'S JUST TURN ON THE TV FOR NOW.
MAYBE WE SHOULD DO SOME-THING?
THERE.
MAKE OUR-SELVES COM-FORT-ABLE, HUH ...?
KACHA
KACHA
KACHA (CLACK)



BA (FWOOSH)
OUT OF HABIT...
...I GRABBED MY MANGA TOOLS ...!!!

W-WE PLAY GAMES AND STUFF ...
OHHH?
WHAT SORT OF GAMES?
HUH?
OH ...
YOU'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU USUALLY DO WITH NOZAKI-SENPAI, MIKOSHIBA-SENPAI?
WELL...
HUMAN DRAMAS THAT IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND GIVE YOU A GLIMPSE OF HOW OTHER PEOPLE WORK.
Do you... like me...?
SOUNDS PRETTY DEEP.
WOW.
THE OTHER DAY WE PLAYED A GAME WHERE YOU UNVEIL THE SECRETS A BUNCH OF GUYS WERE HIDING DEEP INSIDE!
IT WAS REALLY FUN!
you...drive me so crazy...You have to take responsibility for that...!!!
A MYSTERY GAME...?
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY, I HAVE A CONSOLE ...
NAH !!!
GATA (CLATTER)
NOT RIGHT NOW!!!
I JUST WANNA LIVE IN THE MOMENT AND ENJOY THE CONVERSATION!!!
HA HA HA HA!

SINCE THEY'RE NOT GOING TO FIGURE IT OUT

MAGAZINE: MONTHLY GIRLS' ROMANCE / YOUR MIDSUMMER HEROINE IS ME!?

THAT'S NOT QUITE RIGHT!!!
BUT THIS SIDE CHARACTER GIRL IS CUTE TOO!
SHE'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE PRETTY ONE.
SHE IS THE HEROINE, AFTER ALL.
DON'T YOU THINK MAMIKO'S REALLY THE CUTEST ONE?
わい
WAI
わい
WAI (CHATTER)

MANGA'S BLACK AND WHITE!!!
DON'T YOU HAVE ANYTHING THAT'S IN COLOR!?
NOT THAT! UMMM, YEAH!!! SOMETHING IN COLOR!!!

ENOUGH MAMIKO !!!
夢野咲子 カラー表紙コレクション
SAKIKO YUMENO COLOR COVER COLLECTION
HERE.
MAMIKO... AND SUZUKI-KUN COME TO LIFE...
MONTHLY GIRLS' ROMANCE JUNE BONUS

REAL PEOPLE ...?
YOU KNOW !!?
UME
SOMETHING WITH PICTURES OF REAL PEOPLE !!!
NOT THAT! SOMETHING MORE... WITH PICTURES!

THAT'S TOO REAL !!!
HERE.
FIRST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION ALBUM

HMM?
WELL...
WHAT SORT OF GIRLS DO YOU LIKE, SENPAI?
OH WELL.
GUESS WE CAN DO IT WITH THIS...

HER BOTTOM HALF!!?
THOSE DON'T SHOW HERE!!!
GIRLS WITH NICE LEGS.
I GUESS.

HUH?
ME?
UHH...
THEN WHAT SORT OF GIRLS DO YOU LIKE, WAKA-MATSU?

WOULD YOU TWO AT LEAST LOOK AT THE PICTURES !!?
HEH HEH HEH!
I LIKE PEOPLE WITH GOOD HEARTS!

YOU TWO WANT TO JUST STAY OVER TONIGHT?
IT LOOKS LIKE THE TRAINS AREN'T STARTING BACK UP.

NO. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
OKAY?
I'LL WASH THE DISHES!
SORRY 'BOUT THAT, NOZAKI.
THANKS.

NOZAKI-SENPAI ...!!
NOZAKI ...!
WE SHOULD ALL HELP EACH OTHER OUT WHEN WE'RE HAVING PROBLEMS.

NOZAKI ...!!!
Plan for Next Time
"Pajama party with Mamiko & Friends"
• Pouring rain → Sleepover...
• Talk about the guys they like
• Everyone eats together!☆

REALLY?
IT'S PROBABLY BECAUSE I DO PUSH-UPS.
DAMMIT! FREAKIN' JOCK.
YOU'RE ACTUALLY REALLY WELL BUILT...
...AREN'T YOU...?

SO IF WE SAY ANYTHING, IT'S GONNA TURN INTO GIRL TALK...
SCARY...
REALLY!?
...
YOU ACTUALLY HAVE PRETTY BIG BREASTS, DON'T YOU?

WH—
WHAT?
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING!
BIKU (FLINCH)
KURU (TURN)

STOP!!!
WHAA—?
STOP IT!
YOU'RE REALLY CUTE WITH YOUR BANGS DOWN.
OH!

HIS CONSIDERATION AS THE HOMEOWNER?

COME ON. WE'RE GOING TO BED, SO YOU GO BACK TO YOUR OWN ROOM.
BASA (THUMP)
YOU HAVE YOUR OWN BED, DON'T YOU?
HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO BED ALREADY?

THEN AS THE HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD, I'LL JUST WATCH OVER YOU GUYS UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP.
DON'T MIND ME AND JUST LET THE CONVER-SATION PICK UP.
I SAID WE WERE GONNA GO TO BED!!!
NOTHING'S GONNA PICK UP!!!

NOZAKI-SENPAI, IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU WANT US TO DO?
UH-HUH.
IF IT'S SOMETHING I CAN HELP WITH, I WILL.
I'M THINKING OF DOING A SLEEPOVER STORY.
REFERENCING THIS.

BUT HOW DOES THAT GET MORE EXCITING IN THE MANGA?
?
THEY JUST GONNA TALK THE WHOLE TIME?
ACK!

NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT, THE READERS AREN'T GOING TO BE SATISFIED WITH JUST A BUNCH OF GIRLS TALKING TO EACH OTHER...
AH HA HA!
EH HEH HEH!
I HAVE TO MAKE IT EVEN MORE EXCITING ...!!!

HOW ABOUT WE START WITH THOSE TWO GETTING IN A FIST FIGHT?
HE WENT FOR BREAK-ING UP FRIEND-SHIP ...!!?

ANSWERING HIS REQUEST

SO WHAT DO YOU THINK OF KASHIMA, SENPAI?
OH YEAH.
WHY DID YOU BRING UP KASHIMA ALL OF A SUDDEN...?
WHAT ABOUT YOU AND THAT LORELAI GIRL, WAKA-MATSU?
OH!!
I STILL HAVEN'T MET HER!!

OH!
WANT ME TO CARRY HIM?
I'M PRETTY SURE I'M THE STRONGEST ONE HERE. I'LL DO IT!
AHH, HE'S NOT GONNA WAKE UP.
OH WELL. GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO DRAG HIM...
ZUDOON (THUD)
BATAAN (CRASH)
I DON'T NEED ONE!!!
...YOU WANT A HANDI-CAP?
MAMI... KOSHIBA ...
WAI
WAI
WAI (CHATTER)
WHA—?
NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!
HUH !?
THEN LET'S ARM WRESTLE!
DAMMIT... I TOTALLY LOST...
PACHIN (CLICK)
NIGHT.
WELL THEN, GOOD NIGHT!!!
YEAH!
LET'S JUST GET TO SLEEP ...
WE REALLY GOT CARRIED AWAY, DIDN'T WE!?
WHEEZE
WHEEZE
...WHOA, LOOK AT THE TIME.

[ISSUE 39]
Tanuki Around the Nation

MOVE ...?
COME TO THINK OF IT, IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR DEPART-MENT CHANGES ...
HUH...
OH!
NO.
IT'S NOTH-ING.
FORGET ABOUT IT.
UM... ABOUT THIS MOVE THAT'S COMING UP...

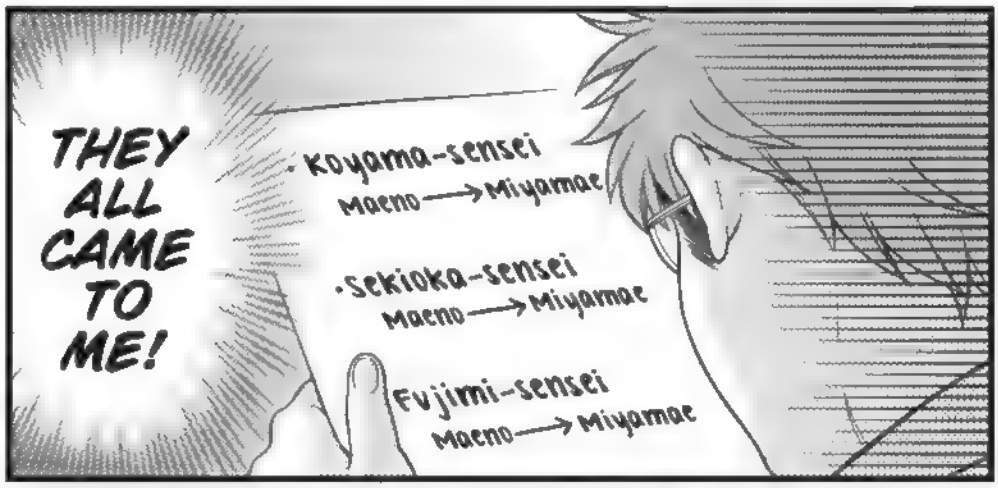
THANKS FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, MIYAMAE-KUN.
HE'S BEING MOVED TO A DIFFERENT MAGAZINE ...!?
HAH!
DON'T TELL ME HE'S ...!!!

...I FIGURE I CAN AT LEAST BE A LITTLE NICE TO HIM RIGHT AT THE END.
HE'S GOING AWAY !!!
HE'S GOING AWAY.
TAKE MY PICTURE FOR THE BLOG!
ABOUT THE NEXT GROUP DATE, RIGHT?
NOW THAT I KNOW HE'S GOING TO BE LEAVING...
HE'S GOING AWAY.

HE GOT EVEN CLOS-ER.
SLRP~
ACTUALLY, I'M MOVING TO THE DESK RIGHT NEXT TO YOU, MIYAMAE-KUN!

WHERE THE COMPLAINTS WENT

NO ONE GOT MOVED TO A DIFFERENT DEPARTMENT, BUT I GUESS THEY DID CHANGE A COUPLE OF OUR ASSIGNMENTS.
AND HERE WE WERE ALL GETTING ALONG SO WELL!
IS THAT SO...?
WHOEVER ENDS UP WITH THIS GUY'S OLD ASSIGNMENTS IS IN FOR IT.



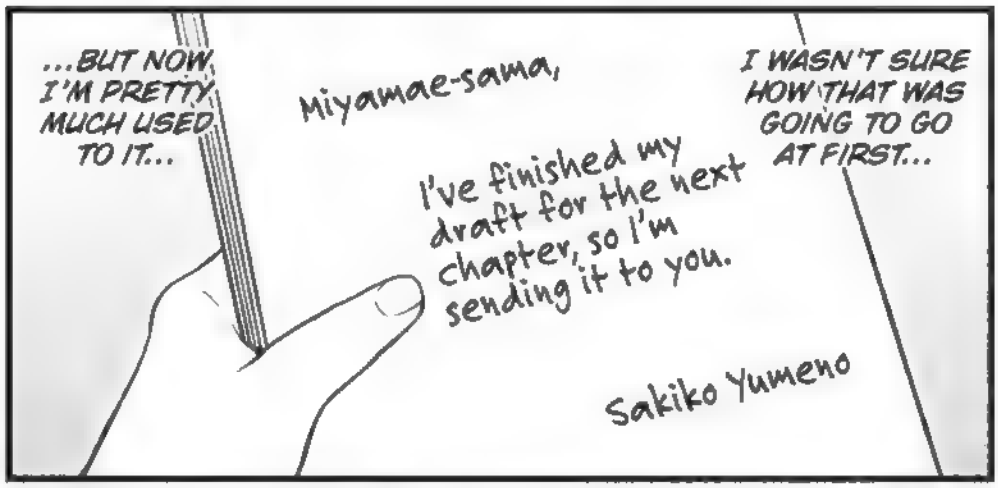
HELLO?
MY NAME IS MIYAMAE. I'M TAKING OVER FOR MAENO AS YOUR EDITOR...
IF I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO IT, THREE OF THEM ISN'T ANY DIFFERENT THAN JUST ONE.
OH WELL ...

BUT HE WAS SO NICE AND SO HANDSOME!!
I'M GOING TO LOSE MY DRIVE!!!
I'M NOT GOING TO BE WORKING WITH MAENO-SAN ANYMORE!?
WHAA!?
CONTRIBUTING FOR A FEW MONTHS

YOU JUST CAN'T ...
YOU CAN'T TRUST AN EDITOR...
BIKU
ZW
BIKU (FLINCH)
ZW!!
...ANYTHING'S GOING TO BE DIFFERENT, EVEN WITH SOMEONE ELSE...
IT'S NOT LIKE ...
JUST STARTED A YEAR AGO

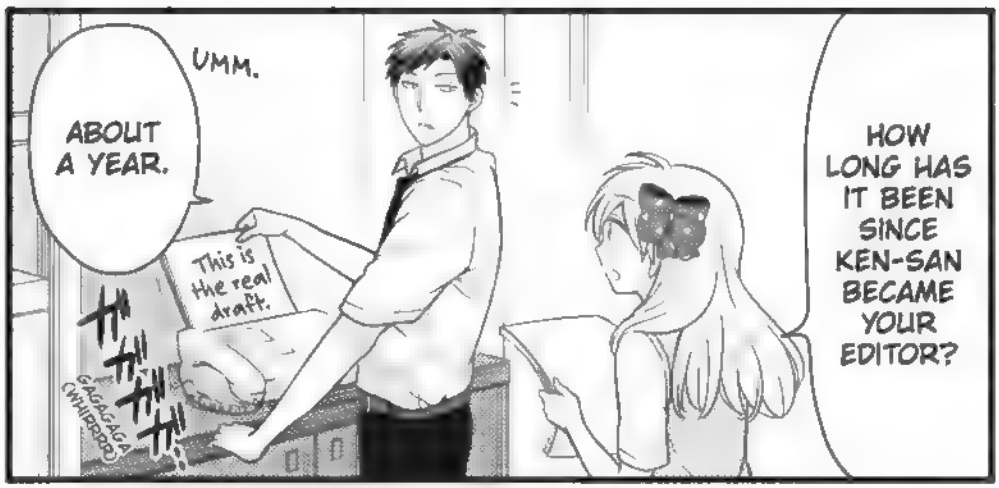
THEY'RE ALL HASSLES IN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT WAYS!!!
NOT YET!! I STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN MY REVENGE ON HIM !!!
LIKE I'M GOING TO LET HIM JUST WIN AND THEN RUN AWAY!!!
WHAA —!?
MY EDITOR'S CHANGING!?
A FEW YEARS

SAKIKO YUMENO-SENSEI
COME TO THINK OF IT, I TOOK OVER YUMENO-SAN FROM MAENO TOO...

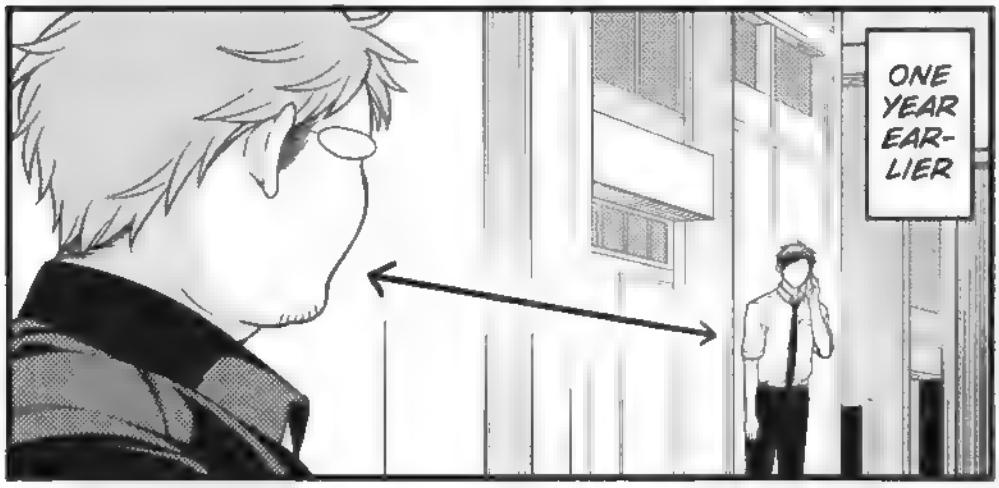

...BUT NOW, I'M PRETTY MUCH USED TO IT...
Miyamae-sama,
I've finished my draft for the next chapter, so I'm sending it to you.
Sakiko Yumeno
I WASN'T SURE HOW THAT WAS GOING TO GO AT FIRST...

...SABU-ROU'S DANCE ...!!!
THE BEAUTI-FUL...
...IS OVER-FLOW-ING...
MY HIDDEN POWER...
HE FINALLY USED IT...!!!
SUZUKI-KUN...!!
PIRA (FLIP)
ピラッ

WAY TO GO, KEN-SAN!!
Ken-san
Are you messing with me? Also, you have a typo in the third panel on page 12.
Menu
PIRORORORO (BRRRRING)
ピロロロロロ


HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE KEN-SAN BECAME YOUR EDITOR?
UMM.
ABOUT A YEAR.
This is the real draft.
GAGAGAGA (WHIPPED)

DID YOU LIKE HIM FROM THE START?
NAH ... NOT REALLY.
I KEPT MY DISTANCE AT FIRST.
AWWW!
THAT'S A SURPRISINGLY ADULT REACTION.


ONE YEAR EARLIER

HELLO. I'M YUMENO.
IF YOU GET ANY CLOSER, I'LL LEAVE.
YOU MEAN YOU KEPT YOUR DISTANCE LIKE THAT ...!!?

THEY SOMEHOW SHORTENED THE DISTANCE.
WE'RE JUST HAVING A MEETING TODAY.
THE MAIN REASON IS SO I CAN TAKE OVER AS YOUR EDITOR.
BUT MAENO ISN'T HERE!!!
DON'T...
...BE LATE, MIYAMAE-KUN!
.....
OH WELL. UNLIKE THE OTHERS, WE'RE BOTH GUYS, SO I'LL TAKE IT CASUALLY.
YUMENO-SAN, DO YOU WANT ANYTHING TO EAT?
AGH!
N—
NO!!!
NO THANK YOU!
I DON'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT WE'RE FRIENDS NOW JUST BECAUSE WE HAD DINNER TOGETHER!
HE'S LIKE A REALLY STAND-OFFISH WOMAN. THAT'S GONNA PISS ME OFF.

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR STORY, LET'S FALL IN LOVE♡.
SUZUKI-KUN IS POPULAR WITH THE READERS, RIGHT?
DOKI (BADUM)
HE'S AN ORTHODOX HERO.
WHA—?

ARE YOU TRYING TO SUCK UP TO ME BY STARTING WITH MY CHARACTERS!?
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR THAT!!!
ARE YOU TRYING TO GET TO ME...
...BY WINNING OVER MY CHILD!?

NO...
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT PERHAPS I COULD BE OF SOME HELP...
...WITH CREATING YOUR STORY.

YOU'RE GOING TO BUTT IN ON MY STORY MAKING TOO!?
I HAVE MY OWN WAY OF DOING THINGS!!
CHILD-REARING
IT'S LIKE I'M TRYING TO SEDUCE A WOMAN WITH A KID. THIS SUCKS...
BUT I JUST MET YOU!!!

WHAT THEY HAVE IN COMMON

KYAI (CHATTER)
きゃい
KYAI
きゃい
AWWW!
THAT'S SO COOL !!!
SOME-THING IN COMMON, HUH...?
THAT GUY AT THE GROUP DATE BEHIND US ACTUALLY HAS A POINT THERE.
BUT I THINK EVERYONE HAS SOMETHING IN COMMON, SO I TRY TO LOOK FOR THAT.

I TOTALLY FORGOT!
AH HA HA HA HA!
OHH? WAS TODAY THE DAY WE WERE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
HE'S GONNA JOIN IN FROM THERE!!?
!!?
WHA—?
YOU KNOW HIM?
THERE!
THEN I'LL MOVE TO A CLOSER SEAT, OKAY?
OHHH!?
RIGHT NOW, HE'S TRYING TO WIN OVER A MANGA-KA SO HE CAN DO WHATEVER HE WANTS WITH HIM.
HE'S MY KOUHAI! I TRAINED HIM ALL BY MYSELF!
THE DIS-TANCE ...!!!
WHOoo!
TRICK HIM REALLY GOOD!
KOOU-HAI!
PAN (CLAP)
GO FOR IT! GO FOR IT!
PAN
KOOOU-HAI!
PAN
PAN

NOT VERY THOUGHTFUL, ARE YOU?
YOU START...
...WITH A SALAD, OF COURSE.
SOMETHING TO EAT...
THE MANGO JUICE IS REALLY GOOD!
THAT'S ENOUGH. WE'LL GO ON WITHOUT MAENO-SAN. WOULD YOU LIKE SOMETHING TO DRINK...?

WELL THEN, I WAS THINKING WE COULD TALK ABOUT *LET'S FALL IN LOVE*♡ WHILE WE EAT.
HMPH.
HE KEEPS BUTTING INTO THE CONVERSATION. WHAT A HASSLE.

TURN BACK AROUND !!!

THIS MEETING IS AN ABSOLUTE DISASTER AND GETTING CLOSER TO HIM IS GONNA BE ROUGH...
ALSO ...
...ABOUT HASEGAWA-SAN HERE...
HUH!?

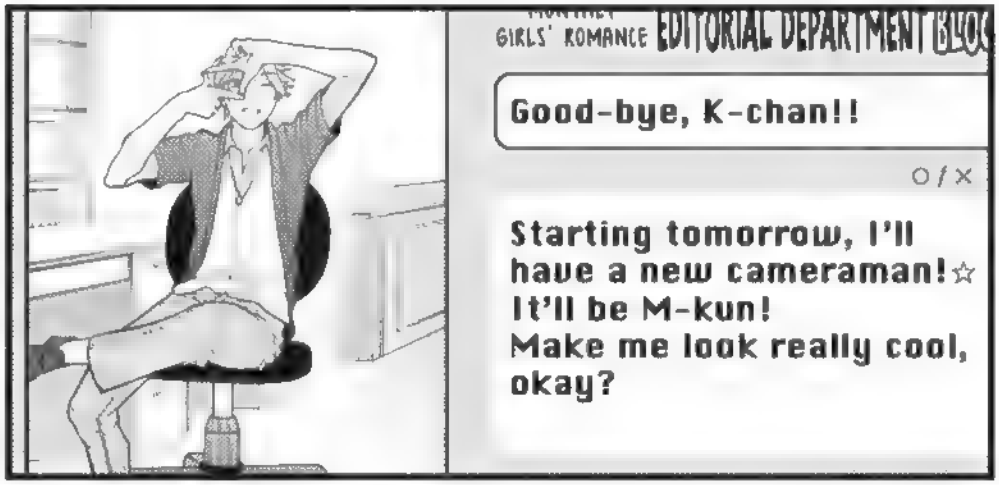
Y—
YOU KNOW WHO HASE-GAWA-SAN IS...?
MOVE IT.
SORRY... HASEGAWA-SAN.
HUH?
SHE'S BEEN THERE SINCE THE FIRST CHAPTER.
RIGHT?

THEN WHAT ABOUT HER!?
AND, NOT JUST "THE GIRL WITH GLASSES"!!
THAT'S MAMIKO'S FRIEND, OOHASHI-SAN.
AND HIM!?
AND NOT JUST "THE BOY WITH THE HEADBAND"!!
THAT'S SUZUKI'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, RYUUNO-SUKE-KUN.
FROM THE CHEER SQUAD.

WOW !!!
YOU ACTUALLY KNOW FIVE OF THE CHARACTERS' NAMES...!
WAAH!!!
YOU MEAN YOU ACTU-ALLY...
...READ MY MANGA !?
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
IT WAS REALLY EASY.

OH!
MIYA-MAE-KUN.
SIGH
I MANAGED TO MAKE THINGS WORK BACK THEN. I'LL HAVE TO WORK HARD AGAIN THIS TIME...

I KINDA WANT YOU TO TAKE OVER ONE OF THE JOBS SHE WAS DOING...
TO A YOUNG MEN'S MAGAZINE, RIGHT?
YEAH.
YOU KNOW THAT THE GIRL WHO USED TO SIT NEXT TO ME GOT MOVED, RIGHT?


GIRLS' ROMANCE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT BLOG
Good-bye, K-chan!!
O/X
Starting tomorrow, I'll have a new cameraman!☆
It'll be M-kun!
Make me look really cool, okay?

M-kun's First Picture!
O/X
Apparently M-kun starts shaking when he tries to take my picture.
You don't have to get that nervous, M-kun!
(LOL)

A FEW DAYS HAVE PASSED.
MIYAMAE-KUN, YOU'RE STILL SHAKING?
HONESTLY!
GATA
GATA (TREMBLE)
GATA
GATA
YUP. SO MAYBE YOU COULD HAVE SOME-ONE ELSE ...
YEAH. I GUESS IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
TA-DAAA! A NEW CAMERA !!
SUPER-POWERFUL JIGGLE COMPENSATION!!
WOW!! IT doesn't shake!!
NEW
WITH THIS EVEN YOU, CLUMSY AS YOU ARE...
...WON'T MISS YOUR SHUTTER CHANCE!
I'M TOTALLY POWERLESS IN THE FACE OF TECHNOLOGY ...
WHAT'S THIS, KEN!!? YOU'RE WORK-ING ON A HUGE SCALE THERE !!!

[ISSUE 40]

SO, HOW HAS THE TONE DEAFNESS THING BEEN GOING?
WELL, I'VE BEEN GETTING SOME LESSONS HERE AND THERE, BUT IT JUST ISN'T HELPING...
HEY, DON'T BE SO PESSIMISTIC, KASHIMA!!
YOU'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE BIT BETTER, YOU KNOW!
HUH, REALLY!? THAT'S AMAZING, KASHIMA-KUN!!!
I'D LOVE TO HEAR IT!!!
YOU KNOW, YOU TWO NEED TO MAKE IT A LITTLE LESS OBVIOUS WHEN YOU'RE JUST BEING POLITE...

A CASUAL RENDEZVOUS

IT'S JUST US.
GO AHEAD AND INVITE SOME OTHER FRIENDS TOO.
OHH?
I'D LOVE TO!
BY THE WAY, I'M GOING TO THE FESTIVAL TONIGHT. DO YOU WANT TO COME TOO, KASHIMA-KUN?

THEY SOME-HOW MAN-AGED TO MEET UP.
WHOA, CHIYO-CHAN, YOU'RE WEARING A YUKATA!!!
IT'S REALLY CUTE!!!
AH HA HA HA!
THANKS!

OHH!
YOU LOOK GOOD!
SO DO YOU, MIKORIN.
THAT'S A NICE PATTERN!
?
YOURS TOO. IT'S NICE AND SUBTLE.

HUH?
YOUR HAIR'S REALLY COOL TOO!
AND YOU GOT YOUR OBI TIED JUST RIGHT!!
UM.
AND YOU REALLY DO LOOK GOOD WITH RIBBONS!!
TH—
THANKS ...

NOW IT'S MY TURN.
SOWA
NOW IT'S MY TURN.
SOWA (FIDGET)
SOWA
SOWA
THIS IS SUCH A HASSLE...

HUH !!?
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE.
IT'S PRETTY RARE TO SEE A HIGH SCHOOL BOY IN A YUKATA, ISN'T IT?

7/21
Tomoda
Hey, you're late, Protagonist!!
NORMALLY WHENEVER YOU HAVE A FESTIVAL, EVEN THE BOYS WEAR THEM...
IT'S RARE ...?
BUT WHY...?

LET'S SNEAK OUT TOGETHER...
LOOK! FIRE-WORKS! ♡
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE CGs!!?
THEY'RE GIRLS, BUT THEY'RE NOT WEARING YUKATA ...!!?
NO WAY ...!?

I WANNA GET YAKISOBA!
YAAAY!
APPLYING SCREEN TONES TODAY
GET WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
MIGHT AS WELL GET DINNER FROM ONE OF THE STALLS TONIGHT.

SITUA-TIONS?
FOR SHORT STORIES.
IF I IMAGINE SITUATIONS FOR THEM, I CAN USE THEM IN MY MANGA.
THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE A LOT OF COU-PLES.
...YOU REALLY LIKE EVENTS LIKE THIS, DON'T YOU?
COME TO THINK OF IT...

THAT'S KINDA SAD...
AND THAT'S A ONE-TIME-ONLY ANNI-VERSA-RY DATE.
OHH! THEY LOOK IT!
FOR EXAMPLE, THOSE TWO ARE FRENEMIES ON A DATE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE THEY LOST A BET.

WAAAAAH!
AND THE GIRL WHO'S HEADED STRAIGHT FOR US AT THIS VERY MOMENT IS COMING TO BRING MISFORTUNE TO YOUR LIFE.

FANTASY SETTING ②

HE'LL DUMP HER RIGHT AWAY... BUT SHE'LL HAVE GOTTEN SERIOUS ABOUT HIM. AND THEN HIS BEAUTIFUL CHILDHOOD FRIEND WILL SHOW UP AND THAT'LL GET...
THAT'S IT. HE'S PROBABLY JUST CURIOUS ABOUT HER BECAUSE SHE'S SO WEIRD. THAT'S ALL.
NO WAY... THIS IS SENPAI WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ...!
NO WAY IS SHE STILL POPULAR GIVEN HOW SHE IS...

SIGN: DANGO—SWEET RICE DUMPLINGS

NAH.
I DON'T REALLY WANNA BE CAUGHT.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
Hoo!
Boo!
USUALLY... YOU RUN AWAY BECAUSE YOU WANT HIM TO COME AFTER YOU, RIGHT ...?

MAYBE WE SHOULD HAVE INVITED KASHIMA-KUN ALONG AFTER ALL.
SHE'S JUST GOING TO POUT ABOUT IT.
NAH... YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT SHE'LL DO IF WE BRING HER ALONG...
ICE
BUT STILL, WE'RE AT A FESTIVAL...
THIS IS A STANDARD EVENT. I'LL PROBABLY END UP DRAWING BACKGROUNDS FOR ONE EVENTUALLY...
I SHOULD GET SOME PICTURES.
SIGNS: LOTTERY / FRIED CHICKEN
THE BACK ALLEY WHERE MAMIKO WILL PROBABLY GET HIT ON
PASHA (SNAP)
PASHA
THE BACK OF A STALL, SOMETHING I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF REFER-ENCES FOR
SIGN: YAKISOBA— FRIED NOODLES
THE BACK-GROUND FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF MAMIKO AFTER SHE TRIPPED AND FELL
KASHA (SNAP)
KASHA
THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, HORI-CHAN...

YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT THEY'LL DO

ABOUT THIS ANGLE...?
HMMM?
HUH?
AND THEN SUZUKI COMES TO SAVE MAMIKO AFTER SHE FALLS...
.....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SENPAI?
HUH!?
OKAY !!!
DON'T MOVE !!!
WHAT IN THE WORLD DID I DO ...!!?
!?
!?
YOU DID IT, KASHIMA!!
THERE!
I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOMETHING.

OH!
SOR...
DON (THUD)
TA (TROT)
TA
TA
TA
HONESTLY! WHERE DID EVERYONE GO?

...RY...

I-IS SOMETHING WEIRD!?
HE'S TOTALLY STARING AT ME ...!?
WAAAH!
...
JIII (STAAARE)
N-NOZAKI-KUN...!!!

IT'S NOT JUST "POSSIBLY"! IT'S ME!!!
HOW DO YOU NORMALLY IDENTIFY ME ANYWAY!!?
THAT'S YOU, ISN'T IT, SAKURA!?
...BUT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE SAKURA...!?
GYAH!
THE PATTERN ON THE RIBBONS IS DIFFERENT...

HUH?
O-OKAY...
YOU MIND IF I TAKE A CLOSER LOOK?
HA HA HA HA!
NAH.
I WAS JUST KID-DING.
IT'S JUST SO WEIRD SEEING YOU IN A YUKATA!

!
JI (STARE)
OKAY, THEN.
IF YOU'RE SURE.

IT'S MAKING ME NERVOUS ...!!
DOKI
DOKI (BADUM)
WHAT SHOULD I DO...? HE'S STARING AT ME SO SERIOUSLY...
U— UM...
DOKI
DOKI

IF I HAVE IT WRONG, I'LL BE THE LAUGHING-STOCK OF THE ENTIRE COUNTRY!!!
YOU'RE GOING TO USE THIS FOR YOUR MANGA, AREN'T YOU!?
THAT WON'T DO !!!
UH ...
I-I GUESS ...?
BA (FWOOSH)
DO I HAVE IT ON RIGHT !?

PROGRESS SINCE THEN

MONTHLY GIRLS' NOZAKI-KUN 4

Izumi Tsubaki

Translation: Leighann Harvey
Lettering: Lys Blakeslee

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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BVG

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I WAS SHOPPING.
KASHAN (RATTLE)
KASHAN
I GOT REALLY EXCITED ABOUT THE FESTIVAL.
SORRY, SORRY.
AHHH!!! MIKORIN, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN!?
GYU (GRAB)
WHAT'S THIS?
POOON (FWOOSH)
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FESTIVAL!!!
HEROINE COLLECTION
SIX DIFFERENT STYLES
KARA (CLATTER)

IT'S TIME TO GET GOING!
HEY! THERE YOU ARE! HEEY, KASHI-MA!
OH! OKAY.
I'LL BE THERE IN A BIT!
MINI CASTELLA
YOU'RE WITH A PLAIN OLD FEMALE FRIEND. OTHER THAN SAKURA.
THAT'S ODD.

I WONDER WHY.
AND I JUST KINDA FEEL COMFORTABLE WHEN SHE'S NEXT TO ME TOO.
NOW THAT YOU MEN-TION IT...
...SHE'S PRETTY EASY TO TALK TO.
HMM?

I WONDER IF I HAVE ENOUGH PICTURES...
.....

OH!!!

SA-KURA.
THE BOW IN YOUR OBI IS COMING UNDONE.
HUH!?
FOR REAL!?
BA (FWISH)!!
ばっ

I...
... COULD FIX IT IF YOU WANT?
YOU WILL?
THEN HERE'S MY BOOK ON HOW TO DO IT...
THANKS.

HMM...
HUH?
HA HA!
I GUESS GETTING IT RIGHT IS EVEN TOO MUCH FOR NOZAKI-KUN...
BUT NO MATTER HOW MESSED UP IT TURNS OUT, I'M STILL HAPPY.
UHHH...
THERE.

SUPER-ELEGANT? OBI ARRANGEMENT

Roman School

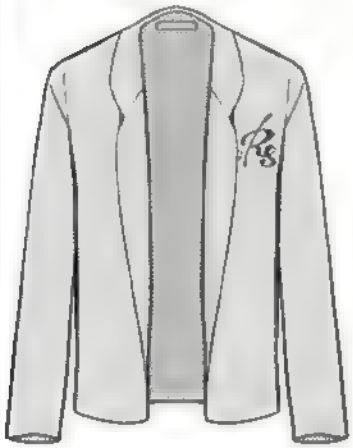
Private high school. School rules are lax. A pretty easygoing institution where most students go on to college.

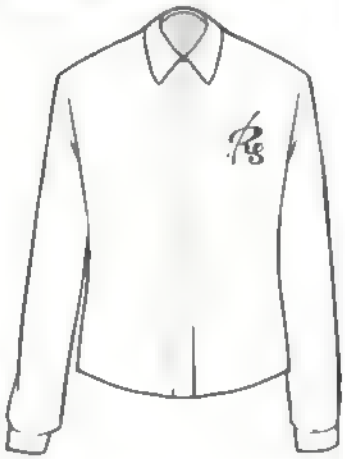
The R. S. logo is from the initials for Roman School.

Roman School Uniforms (Female)

Summer Uniforms

Winter Uniforms





Bags

The standard black bag, but you only have to use it during official ceremonies. You can bring whatever bag suits your tastes to school.

Other Settings

Train Commuters

Down-train:
Mikoshiba, Yuzuki, Wakamatsu
Up-train:
Chiyo, Kashima, Hori

Pedestrian Commuters

Nozaki

Bicycle Commuters

Those who commute by train but are close enough to also commute by bike sometimes change the way they commute when they feel like it.

Drama Club

They have a club room in the club building. (That's also where they keep the costumes.) They do table readings and casual movement practices in the club room. When they need a large space for things such as fittings for many people, fights, and making sets, they use the stage in the gym and its wings. Sometimes they make use of the audiovisual hall too. Since other groups use the gym as well, they keep the curtain down during practice when they don't want to spoil their performance or the scenery. The sound, lighting, acting, and set design are split among the club members, so there are many who don't do any acting at all. There are also some members who do both set design and sound. (Hori does set design and directs, and Kashima is an actor.)

Umetarou Nozaki

Grade and class	Year 2, Class B
Birthday	June 6 (Plum Day)
Blood type	A
Height	6' 3"
Club	Going Home Club
Hobbies	Drawing manga, finding story ideas
Things he's good at	Advising people on love (so he claims)
Things he's bad at	Anything to do with Maeno-san
Fashion and style	Normal high school student clothes Lots of dark clothes
Family	Father, mother, younger brother (junior high), younger sister (junior high)
His type	A girl with guts
Favorite foods	Rice
Least favorite foods	Popular Western foods (It's not about how good or bad it is. It's because he doesn't know what it is, so it scares him. That changes once he's eaten it.)
Favorite subject	Japanese (modern and classical), Japanese history, home ec
Least favorite subject	World history, English
Elective subject	Art

- He's not particularly popular. He's got a fairly average face. The girls in his class tend to treat him like, "You're too big. Move!"
- He gets along relatively well with all the guys in his class. He's the kind of guy who's more popular with boys than with girls.

- He hates Maeno.
- He loves Ken-san!

- His process is pretty horrible, but in the end, his manga turns into regular old shoujo romances.
- He's proud of his work, but it's complicated.
- He can't draw backgrounds.

- He doesn't hide the fact that he's a manga-ka. It's just that no one believes him.
- He draws manga because he wants to.

- He lives alone and uses his apartment as his workplace. (It's close to school.)
- How he pays his assistants will eventually be dealt with in the main story.

- He has nimble fingers. He's a good cook.
  His experience cooking at home was just helping his mother, but he got better once he started living on his own. Sometimes when he screws up cooking, he wants someone else to eat it, so he calls Chiyo or Mikoshiba over and has them eat it.

- He doesn't have a blog, and he's not on Twitter.

Chiyo Sakura

Grade and class	Year 2, Class A
Birthday	March 27 (Cherry Blossom Day)
Blood type	O
Height	4' 9"
Club	Art club
Hobbies	Collecting cute accessories
Things she's good at	Watercolor painting
Things she's bad at	Team sports (because sometimes she drags them down)
Fashion and style	Cute clothes
Family	Father, mother, younger brother (junior high)
Her type	Nozaki
Favorite foods	Cheesecake, candy
Least favorite foods	Green curry
Favorite subject	Art
Least favorite subject	Chemistry, physics
Elective subject	Art
Her job helping Nozaki	*Beta*
Bust size	Average

- She loves Nozaki! She's a Nozaki fan, so no matter what he does, she pretty much loves it.
- She's just overall kinda slow.
- She's always liked shoujo manga in general, but mostly as a casual reader, and she's not particularly crazy about any one series.

- The art club is generally optional attendance, except when they're doing a collaborative project or an event where everyone does something all at once (like sketching). When she doesn't have to go over to Nozaki's place for something, she does go to her club. Many people use a calligraphy pen for *beta* work, but Chiyo uses a watercolor brush.

- She's particular about her ribbons. She has many different types at home. (She even has a collection of ones with strange patterns.) However, it seems she unconsciously collects them, and she doesn't consider her ribbon collection to be part of her hobby.

School Designated

Personal Arrangements

The school-designated ribbons are Yuzuki's thin ribbon and a different, smallish ribbon (in her grade's color, red). Chiyo has her own, so it's dark blue.

Stylish girls have various ribbons to use, such as checkered ones. They can also wear their own neckties, but most students just use the ones designated by the school. By the way, the colors by grade are: Year 3, blue; Year 2, red; Year 1, green. Neckties and hall slippers are both in those colors.

Mikoto Mikoshiba

HE PIERCED HIS EARS WHEN HE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL.
※HE DID IT TO BE MORE LIKE A CHARACTER FROM A VIDEO GAME.
HE WEARS A T-SHIRT UNDER HIS DRESS SHIRT AND NO JACKET OR NECKTIE.

Grade and class	Year 2, Class G
Birthday	2/14 (Valentine's Day)
Blood type	A
Height	5' 10"
Club	Going Home Club
Hobbies	Dating sims, famous RPGs such as *Dragon Quest* and *Final Fantasy*
Things he's good at	Memorizing the profiles of his favorite characters
Things he's bad at	Talking to girls (especially gal types)
Fashion and style	He loves stuff like skulls and chains! Flashy and punky clothes Sometimes he wears pink and other cute stuff too (imitating fashion magazines).
Family	Father, mother, cat
His type	The kind, reserved, innocent type
Favorite foods	Hamburgers
Least favorite foods	Green peppers, bitter things
Favorite subject	Biology, English
Least favorite subject	Social studies
Elective subject	Music
His job helping Nozaki	Stuff like decorations, flowers, and dots

- He talks big but is easily embarrassed
- He's a geek for anything *moe* (2-D things like pretty-girl games and figures).
- He's best friends with Kashima

- He's generally pretty shy, but he opens up with younger members of the same sex (like Mayu or Wakamatsu). (He's an only child, so he likes to act like a big brother.)

- The type of girls he likes: the innocent type (he fantasizes about the 2-D realm), but the type of girls who actually like him are the gal type. He scares away quieter girls.

- His classmates know him as "the hot guy who's popular with the girls." They see his occasional pathetic ness favorably as him being "a nice guy."

- He's a secret geek, so he keeps the fact that he's a manga assistant a secret. However, he apparently sees the other assistants as his own kind, so he opens his heart to them pretty easily

- When surrounded by girls, he uses Kashima as a shield and runs away

Masayuki Hori

Grade and class	Year 3, Class C
Birthday	November 28 (Nice Knee-Highs Day)
Blood type	AB
Height	5' 4½"
Club	Drama club
Hobbies	Appreciating manga, theater-going, traveling
Things he's good at	He remembers directions right away (spatial awareness). Carpentry
Things he's bad at	???? (It'll be in the main story eventually.)
Fashion and style	Normal high school student clothes
Family	Father, mother, younger brother (high school)
His type	A girl with nice legs
Favorite foods	*Tonkotsu* (pork bone broth) ramen
Least favorite foods	Food (especially sweets) made by amateurs
Favorite subject	Math, physics
Least favorite subject	Classical Japanese
Elective subject	Calligraphy
His job helping Nozaki	Backgrounds

HE SPIKES HIS HAIR WITH WAX. WHEN HE WEARS HIS BANGS DOWN, HE PARTS THEM IN THE MIDDLE.
HE CHANGED HIS WHITE SHIRT FOR A BLUE ONE.
HE TUCKS HIS NECKTIE INTO HIS POCKET WHEN HE IS WORKING.
HE TAKES IT OUT WHEN HE WALKS AROUND OUTSIDE.
BACK IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HE ATE SOME HANDMADE CHOCOLATE THAT A GIRL IN HIS CLASS GAVE HIM AND GOT AN UPSET STOMACH, SO HE HASN'T BEEN TOO KEEN ON HOMEMADE FOOD EVER SINCE.

- He's very serious about drama, so he never screws around during rehearsal. He's always serious about it.
- Back when he was acting, he was known for always seeming cool, no matter what lines he said because of a combination of his acting chops and his cool voice.
- Lately he's been getting a sense of accomplishment from making sets.

- A former actor.
  Kashima joining gave them a perfect lead, so he stopped acting. After trying his hand at directing and working behind the scenes, he found he enjoyed that more than being on stage, so he decided to do only that.
  He laughs at seeing the girls who just come to see Kashima on stage get caught up in the play in the end and start crying and laughing along.

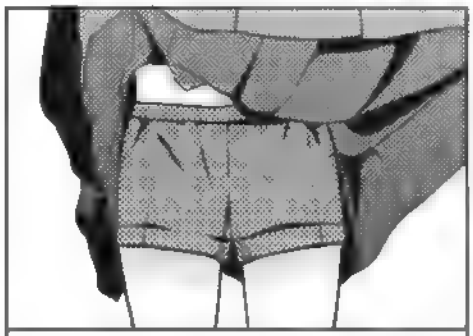
- He's not the least bit interested in winning awards.
  He just aims to put on plays that the average student would like. Because of that, he doesn't go for controversial stories or stories that make some sort of social commentary, but rather popular dramas that everyone can enjoy. That's why they do a lot of love stories with heaps of princes in them.

- He's declared, "I don't eat handmade stuff," but the truth is that he'll eat food that's made by someone that he knows well. In the Valentine's story, Kashima secretly gave him her handmade chocolate, but if she had given it to him openly, he probably would have eaten it.

Yuu Kashima

BLACK SWEATER (V-NECK)
BY THE WAY, HER SURNAME IS PRONOUNCED THE SAME AS THE KASHIMA ANTLERS. (IT'S ALMOST SIMILAR TO "TEJIMA" AND "YAJIMA")
BLACK KNEE-HIGHS

Grade and class	Year 2, Class G
Birthday	October 31 (Halloween)
Blood type	O
Height	5' 9"
Club	Drama club
Hobbies	Going around trying different foods, shopping
Things she's good at	All sports
Things she's bad at	Karaoke (She's tone-deaf.)
Fashion and style	She dresses like an intellectual high school boy.
Family	Father, mother, younger sister (junior high)
Her type	All girls are precious. (boys unknown)
Favorite foods	Fish marinated in sweet miso
Least favorite foods	Super-spicy stuff
Favorite subject	Almighty
Least favorite subject	n/a
Elective subject	Calligraphy
Her job helping Nozaki	n/a
Bust size	Pretty much n/a



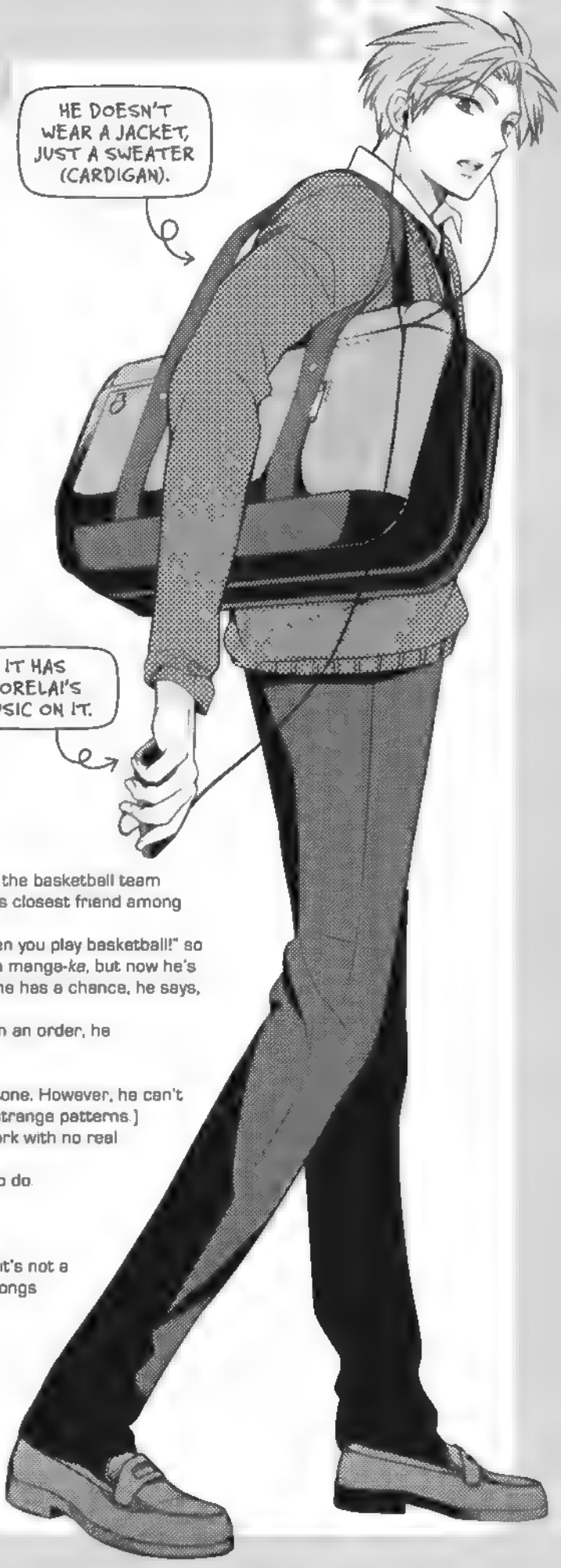
SHE WEARS SHORTS UNDER HER SKIRT, SO SHE'S FINE WHETHER SHE HAS IT ON OR OFF! (SEE INSIDE BACK COVER OF VOLUME 1)

- Known as "the school prince."
- She came to see the school festival during her third year of junior high, and there she saw Hori acting and decided both to go to Roman School and join the drama club.
- She's a prodigy who can't stand slogging away at anything.
- She really just likes having girls fawn over her.

HER NORMAL VOICE IS AT A TYPICAL FEMALE PITCH, SO WHEN SHE'S TRYING TO ACT COOL, SHE TAKES IT DOWN AND MAKES IT LOWER.

Hirotaka Wakamatsu

Grade and class	Year 1, Class D
Birthday	September 3 (Sleep Day)
Blood type	A
Height	6'
Club	Basketball team
Hobbies	Basketball
Things he's good at	Simple work, moving his body
Things he's bad at	Being creative, applied skills
Fashion and style	He dresses kind of preppy. He likes plain, fresh clothes (made from nice fabrics).
Family	Father, mother, much older sister, younger brother (elementary school) A carefree family
His type	A younger girl with a cute personality
Favorite foods	Curry, hamburgers
Least favorite foods	Shiitake mushrooms
Favorite subject	Gym, English
Least favorite subject	Japanese (modern literature)
Elective subject	Calligraphy
His job helping Nozaki	Tone, erasing



- He was Nozaki's *kouhai* in junior high. They met on the basketball team when Wakamatsu was a first-year. He was Nozaki's closest friend among the underclassmen
- He looked up to Nozaki, saying, "You're so cool when you play basketball!" so he has mixed feelings about Nozaki now that he's a manga-*ka*, but now he's more or less given up and he helps out. But when he has a chance, he says, "Let's play basketball!!"
- He plays team sports, so when his *senpai* gives him an order, he automatically follows it.

- He shows an unexpected talent when it comes to tone. However, he can't apply tone without direction. (He tends to choose strange patterns.)
- He's good at detail work. He's also good at rote work with no real practical applications.
- He references old school shoujo manga for what to do.

- He has insomnia, but now he manages it using recordings of Yuzuki
- As long as it's Lorelai singing, he can sleep even if it's not a new song, but he really, really wants to hear new songs from her.

Basketball Team

On clear days, they play outside or in the gym, and on rainy days, they play in the gym. When they can't use the gym, they do basic training in the hallway (like sit-ups or push-ups).

Yuzuki Seo

Grade and class	Year 2, Class A
Birthday	July 7 (Star Festival)
Blood type	B
Height	5' 4"
Club	Glee club
Hobbies	Moving her body, playing with her friends Fighting games (at the arcade) Tactical and action games (at home)
Things she's good at	Singing, sports
Things she's bad at	Doing things in groups, tact
Fashion and style	Gal fashion with a hint of punk
Family	Father, mother, older brother
Her type	An interesting guy
Favorite foods	Sushi, yakitori
Least favorite foods	*Sakura denbu*, decorative garnishes like chrysanthemum greens
Favorite subject	Math, history (Japanese and world)
Least favorite subject	Japanese
Elective subject	Music
Her job helping Nozaki	n/a
Bust size	Big

- Known as the "Lorelai of the Glee Club."
- She's oblivious. But she doesn't mean any harm.
- Her friends often get annoyed with her, but they're still normal friends
- Her hair has natural wave to it. It's a gentle wave. It reaches down to about her chest when she lets it down

- She lives relatively close to school, so she usually bikes to school. However, the station is close to home, so she also commutes by train when she feels like it.

The Glee Club

All of the members know the rumors about Lorelai, but they all find it amusing, so no one tells her about it.

Yuzuki often goes to play with the sports teams (about half the days in the week), but she does come to practice every day before a concert.

Most of the club members are girls. They all pretty much get along well

Mitsuya Maeno

Age	27
Birthday	August 1
Blood type	B
Height	5' 9"
Hobbies	"I guess...my work is my hobby?" Actually, group dates, drinking, sitting in on photo shoots for other editorial departments, all forms of fun
Family	Father, mother, older sister
His type	A girl who's not too serious and just a bit silly, who listens well, will praise him, has big boobs, and isn't too clingy
Favorite foods	Anything pretty
Least favorite foods	n/a
His relationship to Nozaki	Former editor
Fashion and style	Hot guy fashion like you might see in a magazine

Ken Miyamae

Age	27 (He failed his entrance exams twice, so he's two years behind Maeno.)
Birthday	September 22
Blood type	A
Height	5' 7"
Hobbies	Reading
Family	Mother, younger brother
His type	An independent woman with common sense and a sense of responsibility
Favorite foods	Fried fish cakes, alcohol
Least favorite foods	Sweet things
His relationship to Nozaki	His assigned editor
Fashion and style	UNIQLO type clothes. Things such as sweats and track jackets.

He usually communicates by text. Meetings he typically has to do over the phone. Sometimes he'll meet in person. When he sees Maeno, he gains weight from the stress. He loses weight when they're apart.

Yukari Miyako

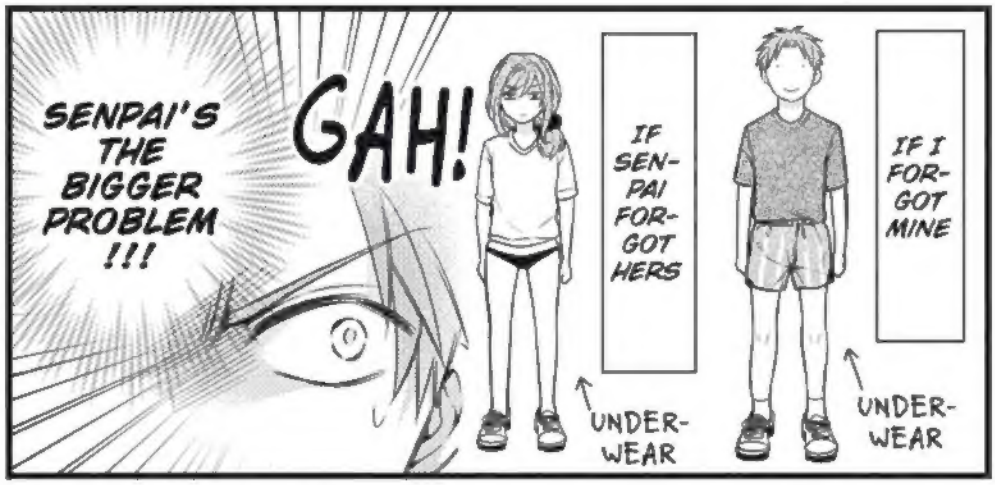
Grade and class	College sophomore
Birthday	April 8
Blood type	O
Height	5' 5"
Hobbies	Internet shopping, ordering things
Family	Father, mother, dog
Her type	Someone she feels relieved to be with
Favorite foods	Pomodoro
Least favorite foods	Liver
Fashion and style	Clothes an office worker might wear off the clock. She loves pastels.

The pronunciation of the character for Miyako is the same as for "Miyaji," "Kinoko," and "Kinako."

MONTHLY
GIRLS'
NOZAKI
-KUN

WHICH ONE IS THE PROBLEM?

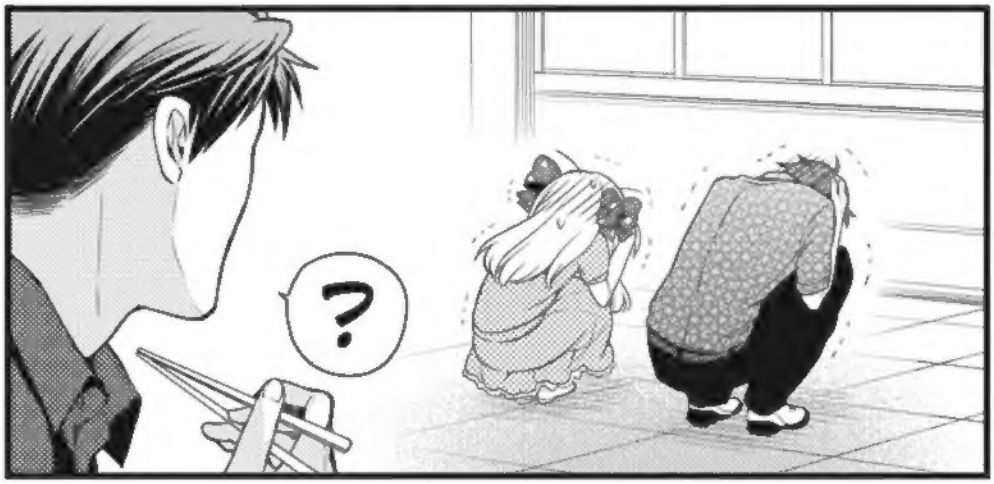
COME ON.
DON'T SAY THAT. JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
WHICH OF US DO YOU THINK WOULD BE THE BIGGER PROBLEM ...
...IF WE FORGOT OUR SHORTS?
WHICH ONE?



AFTER ISSUE 35

THEY MANAGED TO FIND EACH OTHER AGAIN.
LOOKS LIKE YOU REALLY TRIED HARD WITH YOUR OUTFIT TODAY.
HUH?
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
OH...

All decked out in frills and ribbons like that...
...you look kinda like a gorgeous, shining, sweet decorated cake you'd see on display in a store.



TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-sensei: A term of respect commonly used for teachers but can also refer to doctors, writers, and artists.

-senpai: Used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-kouhai: Used to address underclassmen or less experienced coworkers.

PAGE 18

***Otome* game**: *Otome* games are a genre of video games aimed at female players. They're most often visual novels and dating sims with a female main character and a bevy of boys to romance.

PAGE 24

Tsundere: A *tsundere* is a trope character type who is initially standoffish and prickly but becomes much more affectionate once they warm up to a person, usually in a romantic way. The term comes from a combination of the terms *tsuntsun*, meaning "prickly, sharp," and *deredere*, meaning "lovey-dovey."

PAGE 30

Yandere: A *yandere* is a trope character type loosely derived from the *tsundere*. They are initially kind and affectionate, but then they snap and turn aggressive or even psychotic. The term comes from the same *deredere* as *tsundere* combined with *yandeiru*, meaning "twisted."

PAGE 33

Gakuran: The *gakuran* is a traditional boys' school uniform based off of European military uniforms. It is usually black and has a stiff standing collar.

PAGE 36

"Ya" / "Yams": In the original Japanese, Mayu inserts a single syllable into his original answer of *"Un"* ("Yeah") to change his answer to *"Udon."*

PAGE 54

Anmitsu: *Anmitsu* is a summer dessert consisting of agar jelly, red bean paste, various fruits, and often other toppings as well.

PAGE 54

Warabimochi: This confection is made from bracken starch and is usually dusted with roasted soybean powder. It has a jelly-like texture and is commonly eaten in the summer.

PAGE 96

Beta: This manga production term refers to filling in solid black areas with ink.

PAGE 151

Moe: This fandom term refers to feelings of intense affection, usually for the two-dimensional characters found in anime, manga, and video games. The word can also be used to describe the object of such affections.

PAGE 153

Kashima Antlers: The Kashima Antlers are a professional soccer team from the city of Kashima in Ibaraki Prefecture. The name of the team is a play on the fact that "Kashima" is written with the characters for deer and island. Kashima the character also writes her name the same way.

PAGE 155

Sakura denbu: This Japanese condiment or topping consists of pink flakes of cooked, sweetened cod.

MONTHLY
GIRLS'
NOZAKI
-KUN